THE

ATHENÆUM.

JANUARY 1, 1807.

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THE ATHENÆUM.

No. I. JANUARY 1st, 1807.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

SIR,

To compare the manners and customs of men in different countries and periods, has always been accounted one of the most useful, as well as of the most entertaining speculations relative to human life. In these comparisons the imagination is usually most struck by remarkable contrasts, such as are afforded by parallels drawn between the most savage, and the most civilised, states of mankind; and between ages the most remote, and the most recent. But although such contrasted pictures are productive of the greatest surprise, yet there is perhaps more of practical utility in marking the minuter changes which take place in the same country, from the gradual operation of causes in constant action, and which may be expected to be progressive, unless disturbed by some extraordinary alteration in the public circumstances. For this reason, I have thought that it would make an interesting paper in your Miscellany, to present a view of the manners of this country, and especially of its metropolis, as they appeared about a century ago, and point out the principal differences which distinguish them from those of the present day. Various sources might be resorted to for this purpose, but I shall chiefly confine myself to that set of periodical papers under the titles of the Tatler, Spectator, and Guardian, which, having for its principal object the regulation of private and domestic morals, may be expected to afford the most exact representation of the existing state of society. The compass of time included in these publications extends from 1709 to 1714: the well-known names of Addison and Steele sufficiently warrant the authenticity of the draughts, allowance being occasionally made for humorous exaggeration.

I shall begin with *dress*, as a circumstance peculiarly striking on a general and cursory survey of any assemblage of mankind, though its rapid changes, and the total absence of every principle in directing its modes except that of novelty, render it, in fact, of no great moment in an estimate of the times. A much shorter space than the revolution of a century, suffices to produce such alterations in dress as

to confound all ideas of taste and propriety; and I know not whether a beau or belle of queen Anne's reign would appear more whimsical in our eyes than one of George the second's. It is, however, a matter of considerable curiosity, and may incidentally lead to some important inferences.

We find from the Tatler that the most prominent extravagance in female apparel in 1709 was the *hoop-petticoat*, which seems then to have attained its utmost magnitude. A very humorous account is given in the 116th number of that work, of a young culprit brought before an imaginary court for the correction of petty abuses, who had been the "inhabitant" of one of these machines. The petticoat itself was taken off, expanded, and drawn up to the top of the hall, forming a very splendid and ample canopy over the heads of the whole court. Inconvenient as such a fashion must have been, the sex was long unwilling to resign the consequence it imparted to their figures; and I know ladies who well remember the difficulties they were put to in their youth, in mounting a narrow stair-case, or making their entrance into a small crowded drawing-room, under the encumbrance of one of these garments. The modern custom of cramming rooms at routs and other parties, as full as the black-hole of Calcutta, having rendered the wearing of hoops an utter impossibility, they have at length been banished to court, and are not likely again to make their appearance in common life.

The introduction of fashions from Paris by means of a drest doll, is the subject of a letter in the 277th number of the Spectator, in which the superior fancy and elegance of the French modes is exemplified in various points. The same relative superiority, I suppose, is recognised at the present day, and the current novelties of female dress may be traced to the same origin. It was, probably, from that nation that the *undressing* system was derived, which undergoes so much censure in the Guardian. The discarding of tuckers, and the free display of the ancles, prove that our great-grandmothers were not more averse to the exhibition of their charms than their present descendants are. I perceive, however, no traces of that clinging and transparent drapery which now gives such an insight into the formation of the whole female person, and which is a French imitation of Grecian models, favoured by the exquisite delicacy of the cotton manufacture.

That the use of *paint* was as common among the ladies of those times, as it can be at present, may be inferred from various papers in the Spectator, particularly No. 41, in which a complainant says "Give them a tolerable pair of eyes to set up with, and they will make bosom, lips, cheeks and eyebrows by their own industry." The singular custom of *patching*, now happily extinct, seems to have been at its height during that period: and the employment of patches as a party badge, according to the side of the face on which they were placed, is a curious trait of manners, if to be regarded as a serious fact.

The

The Spectator justly remarks that nothing in nature is so variable as a lady's head-dress, and in No. 98 he mentions the extraordinary changes it had undergone within his memory. At the time of his writing it appears to have been as moderate in regard to elevation as at the present moment. The remarkable variations with respect to height, breadth, form and ornament, which may be recollected during the last half-century, and have been faithfully transmitted in the lady's pocket-books and almanacks, will render any earlier extravagancies in this part of dress readily conceivable. It is a pity that the low state of the arts in the first period, did not permit a similar visible representation of the several freaks of fashion, which then took their turn. It would, doubtless, have much gratified a curious enquirer into these subjects, to have met with a picturesque display of those hoods of different gay colours, which are spoken of as a fashionable novelty in the winter of 1712, and made the boxes at the theatres look like parterres of tulips or ranunculuses. The equestrian habits of the ladies call down the censure of the Spectator in No. 435. In imitation of the male dress of that period, they consisted of a hat and feather, a riding-coat, and a peruke, or hair tied up in a bag or with a ribbon; and the resemblance was so perfect, that the information of the petticoat was necessary to determine whether the fair wearer should be addressed as Sir or Madam. The modern crops and round hats are at least as complete a disguise of sex, as far as the head is concerned.

In one of the letters of the Spectator, a lady is made justly to observe, that the male sex is not less addicted to fantastic changes of mode in dress than the female; and a great variety of fashions in wigs and cocks of the hat, is adduced in proof of the assertion. A beau's inventory in the Tatler contains red-heeled shoes and red silk stockings. The dress-wig of that age is well known to have been of enormous dimensions; and it seems to have been a common practice for fine gentlemen, before entering the drawing-room on a visit, to take out a comb and adjust the curls that flowed down on their shoulders. Although the fifty-guinea fleeces of the Foppingtons under Anne and George the first, underwent some diminution in succeeding years, yet wigs of very respectable bulk kept their station upon young heads to a much later date. I remember a family-piece taken about sixty years ago, in which a range of goodly young men, placed in the order of their ages, exhibited that ornament of the head, down to the age of seventeen or eighteen. It seems to have been indicative of quitting the school-boy state for that of the academic or young gentleman. A note in the Spectator from John Sly the haberdasher will amuse one who considers its applicability at the present time. "May it please your honour, I have of late seen French hats of prodigious magnitude pass by my observatory." I remember when the greatest caricature of a hat that could be conceived was worn on the stage by Antient Pistol; but it was not comparable in extravagance with the strange crescent-like

thing that now crowns the head of every military man in the streets, and swings in the hand of every gentleman at a rout or ball. When contrasted with the close-cropped hair, this fashionable hat makes, according to my perceptions, the most ridiculous and grotesque termination of the human form divine that caprice ever invented. A curious notice of a bridegroom's dress is given in a letter to the Guardian from a sober citizen, who is much disconcerted at the finery of his wedding apparel. Part of it was "a silk night-gown, and a gaudy fool's-cap," in which the poor man was made to exhibit himself at the window to the gaze of his neighbours. Just such a costume is given by Hogarth to his Industrious Apprentice, as he is paying the drums and marrow-bones and cleavers on the morning after his marriage with his master's daughter. It is a remarkable circumstance that finery in dress should have gone out of fashion in this country at a time when all other luxury has been increasing beyond all former limits; and perhaps no other example can be adduced of a nation so expensive in general habits, and so moderate in apparel, as the English of the present age.

The folly of converting court-mournings into public ones, was as common, it seems, a century ago as now, and for the very same reason, namely, "the general affectation among men of appearing greater than they are." The Spectator gives a ludicrous picture of an old acquaintance of his in narrow circumstances, but possessed with a strong propensity to appear as a man of fashion, who made a single mourning coat serve, by help of scouring, turning, and fresh buttons, for half the potentates in Europe. The mode seems to have descended as low in that age as in the present. "When one is afraid (says the Spectator) to ask the wife of a tradesman, whom she has lost of her family, and after some preparation endeavours to know whom she mourns for, how ridiculous is it to hear her explain herself, That we have lost one of the house of Austria!" That writer considers it as a kind of presumption in inferior persons to enter into the domestic concerns of princes, without an authority for so doing. Others might regard it as an instance of servility. At any rate, there is an incorrectness in misapplying the orders of the court, which one should not expect from those who look up to it as the great source of authority.

Many particulars occur in these periodical papers concerning the *hours* then kept, compared with those of the preceding age; for the complaint of progressive lateness of hours was as common a century ago, as it is at present. The 263d number of the Tatler is expressly directed against the innovations in this point, and contains several lively reflexions on the absurdity of attempting to invert the order of nature, and turn night into day. The writer says, "In my own memory the dinner has crept by degrees from twelve o'clock to three, and where it will fix, nobody knows." We who have seen it advance to six and seven, can certainly as little conjecture what will be its farthest limit. Since, indeed, the light of the sun can scarcely cease to have some connexion with human occupations, and the sto-

much will probably continue to make its demands for food whilst people are awake and sensible to the call, a meal of some kind will still find a place among the meridian hours, though it may entirely lose the appellation of dinner. As it has been accounted a genteel thing to dine late, it is no wonder that the custom has become so general, for it is as easy to keep back the dressing of a chop till evening, as that of three courses. The great have therefore nothing left by way of distinction, but to make their hours so extremely incompatible with the ordinary train of life, as absolutely to prevent the little from following them; and this appears to be the purpose of their final efforts. The Tatler's remark that "there is scarcely a lady of quality in Great Britain that ever saw the sun rise," has ceased to be applicable, since it must now be a frequent spectacle to those who return from a grand supper-party.

Some curious notices of the different hours kept by different classes in society at that period, may be derived from these papers. We are informed by the Spectator, that coffee-houses were frequented by shop-keepers from six in the morning: and that the students of law made their appearance in them, in their night-gowns, about eight. Fine ladies were even then sufficiently fond of their beds. The lady who sends her journal to the Spectator is represented as taking chocolate in bed, and sleeping after it till ten, and drinking her bohea from that hour till eleven. Her dinner hour is from three to four, but she does not sit up later at a card-party than twelve. On the other hand, the citizen out of trade, whose journal is also given in the same work, rises at eight, dines at two, and goes to bed at ten, when not kept up at his club. Probably those hours do not much differ from those of a retired citizen at present, at his box in Highgate or Hornsey. It deserves remarking, that the custom, now so prevalent, for our mercantile and professional men to keep a country house or lodgings a few miles from London, has much conduced to restoring early morning and evening hours. It is usual for such persons and their families to rise in time for a breakfast at eight, in order that the master may take the round of his garden and little domain before he sets off for his daily business in town. He returns to a late dinner, after which he is little inclined to stir abroad, but spending a domestic evening, he goes to rest in good time. By this regular course of life, both health and morals, I doubt not, are much benefited.

From the consideration of the *division* of time, it is natural to proceed to its *employment*. That of the men is so necessarily determined by their several callings, that it is little affected by fashion, except as their diversions and amusements are influenced by it; and in this respect a century has made no considerable difference. Female occupations, especially in the more opulent ranks of society, are in great measure spontaneous, and therefore will be much directed by the prevailing modes. The principal domestic employment of ladies at the period to which we have been reverting, seems to have been in ornamental needle-work. Lady Lizard is said, "in the space of one summer

summer to have furnished a gallery with chairs and couches of her own and her daughters' working, and at the same time to have heard all Dr. Tillotson's sermons twice over." How many old families are still able to display, as the monuments of ancestrial industry, the "needle-work sublime," so humorously described in Cowper's Task, in which are to be seen

> The piony spread wide,
> The full-blown rose, the shepherd and his lass,
> Lap-dog and lambkin with black staring eyes,
> And parrots with twin cherries in their beak!

I am afraid, however, that the ladies of the present generation look with some scorn upon these elaborate works of their progenitors, in which, indeed, the total want of skill in the rudiments of drawing is too conspicuous. This pleasing and useful art, the foundation of good taste in ornament, was then little cultivated by either sex; and the *cuts*, with which books were adorned at that period, were comparatively as defective in their execution, as the female designs for chair-bottoms and samplers. The superior taste and ingenuity exhibited in all articles of modern and domestic manufacture cannot but be admitted, even after all deductions for the assistance of the paper-stainer, varnisher, cabinet-maker, and other artists. It is to be regretted that they are rendered so expensive by these auxiliaries, as to preclude every idea of economy in the industry bestowed upon them; but if they furnish an elegant and innocent amusement to the class which wants it so much, they sufficiently answer their purpose.

To one habituated to modern manners, it must seem extraordinary that so few traces are to be found in these papers, of the practice of *music* as a female accomplishment. It is made no part of the employment of the Lizard family, though one of the young ladies is represented as romantic, and another, as an admirer of high life; nor does it employ a single half hour of the fair journalist, though her attention was certainly not occupied by more important concerns. In all Congreve's plays, songs are introduced, but the performers are either the men, or professed musicians. Perhaps no one change in the manners of genteel life is so remarkable as the very great consequence attached to the musical art in modern times, on which more time and care are bestowed in the education of young ladies, than upon any other single accomplishment, with the exception, perhaps, of dancing. I do not presume to appreciate the value of what is thus acquired; but from the high degree of *science and execution* that is now expected in musical displays, I think it probable that nine tenths of learners will lay aside their instruments in despair as soon as they are quit of their masters, and that the remainder will play so finely, that their performance can be relished only by a proficient.

It ought, however, to be acknowledged, that the present attention to accomplishments merely ornamental in female education, does not preclude

preclude a much more enlarged plan of instruction with respect to scientific and literary objects, than seems to have been common formerly. There is reason to believe that grammatical accuracy was then rare among the women, that they were generally strangers to the rudiments of geography and astronomy, and that few understood any language except their own. There is, indeed, a letter in the 328th number of the Spectator, which, describing a lady of fashionable acquirements, mentions that "she sings, dances, plays on the lute and harpsichord, paints prettily, is perfect mistress of the French tongue, and has made considerable progress in the Italian;" but she is represented as a great rarity, and indeed a very expensive one to her husband, who writes in the character of a complainant. Certainly, such a list of accomplishments, with the additional one of a good acquaintance with history and other solid branches of knowledge, would now excite little astonishment.

Unless Addison be regarded as an extravagant satirist, his catalogue in the Spectator of a *lady's library*, conveys a mean idea of the furniture of a woman's mind. The very sound of a lady's library, it seems, gave him a great curiosity to see it; and he takes care to inform us that Leonora, the proprietor, was distinguished for her love of books and retirement. The list is sufficiently multifarious, ascending from Durfey and Culpepper to Locke and Newton; but the writer observes, that the lady had bought a few of them for her own use, and the greater part because she had heard them praised, or was acquainted with the authors; and he plainly insinuates that her study chiefly lay in romances. All these books are in English, which appears also to have been the only language known by the Lizards, though represented as women of education. Upon the whole, it would seem that female reading at that time was nearly limited to plays and romances, and what are called *good books*. The latter were, doubtless, in greater proportion than at present, both on account of the narrower range of general reading, and the more religious character of the age. Of the difference in the latter respect, at least in externals, a remarkable instance appears in the 503d number of the Spectator, in which a correspondent describes at length the airs played off by a fine young lady, to attract admiration in a city church beyond the limits of her own parish. An expression of the deepest and most heartfelt devotion, and profound attention to every part of the service, were the leading points of her acting: and at the sermon, it is said, she took out her tablets and gold pen, and began writing after the preacher. Nothing, I suppose, would be more contrary to probability, than to represent a coquet of the present day, employing artifices of this kind to captivate the young men, unless it were within the pale of some particular sects.

Card-playing seems to have been as serious a business at the commencement of the past century, as at any subsequent period. Its use in filling up the vacuities of society will, indeed, always be the same; and if conversation was then more languid from the deficiency of general

neral information, cards must have been a more necessary relief. Of public amusements, there were plays and operas, which occupied the same place in the system of fashionable life then, as at present; and whatever improvements have since been made in the spaciousness and splendour of the theatres, a dramatic critic will scarcely admit that there has been any in the pieces exhibited, (except in point of decorum) or in the actors. Several satirical strokes are bestowed in these papers upon the encouragement given by people of fashion to Powel's puppet-shew. If this was a proof of a childish taste at that period, the successful translation of the tales of the nursery to the royal theatres, and the crowds collected by any new combination of sound and scenery without a particle of sense or poetry, will hardly allow a higher estimate of the taste of a modern audience.

One of Addison's entertaining papers in which Sir Roger de Coverley is the hero, relates the good knight's visit to Spring-gardens or Foxhall, the modern Vauxhall. The time was May 20th. O. S. in the evening. The knight sets out, as he now might do, in a boat from the Temple-stairs. In the voyage, he is scandalized with the contrast between the city and the west end of the town with respect to the number of steeples in view; and were he to revive, he would find the prospect little mended in that particular, notwithstanding the "fifty new churches." The beauty of the gardens at that time consisted of the shady walks and green bowers, and no hint is given of the illuminations that now render them so brilliant, but convert them into a night instead of an evening scene. The nightingales, which then inhabited the trees, are flown; but the loose women who walked beneath them remain. There is no mention of music as part of the entertainment; and the refreshments seem to have been of humbler quality than such as would satisfy modern luxury. A mask, who taps Sir Roger on the shoulder, asks him to treat her with a bottle of mead. The knight and his friend regale themselves with hung beef and Burton ale. I doubt not but there are admirers of simplicity who would prefer the ancient Spring-gardens to the modern Vauxhall, of which the expence is much more increased than the entertainment.

It is as difficult to ascertain the origin of a new folly, as of a new invention. The passion of young men for exercising the whip on the coachbox, has, at different times within memory, excited censure or ridicule. It is, however, at least as old as the Spectator, two papers of which are employed in exposing it. The gentlemen of the inns of court were particularly addicted to this amusement, which they were accustomed to take from the box of a hackney-coach; and driving the vehicle over the rough pavement and through the narrow passes of the metropolis at that period, must have demanded no small share of steadiness and dexterity. The genuine hackney-coachmen, it seems, regarded those interlopers with an insolent kind of familiarity; for it was their custom to take measure of their shoulders with their whips as they passed their stands. Gentlemen at present, I believe, seldom mount

mount any boxes but those of their own carriages; though certain academical amateurs have been known to assume the office of mail-coach drivers to and from town.

It would bear a dispute whether the spectacle of the prize-fighting swordsmen of old, or of the modern pugilists, most deserved the imputation of barbarity, but I think it cannot be denied that the former has the appearance of the more gentleman-like diversion. The relation of the combat between Miller and Buck has, I doubt not, interested every reader of the Spectator; and to me it appears abundantly more elegant than the technical description of the rounds between Big Ben and the Ruffian, and other heroes of the fist, with which we are often favoured in our politest morning papers. It is, indeed, singular, that the progress of civilization among us should have restored to our scientific combatants the use of more natural weapons. Whether the titled amateurs of boxing have derived their taste for that art from classical example, or from the practice of the vulgar, I shall leave to the learned to determine.

Another remarkable change, connected with the preceding, is the almost total disuse of the small sword in our honourable duels, and the adoption of the pistol. This is, likewise, apparently a retrogradation in politeness, since the pistol is a vulgar weapon compared to the rapier, and more worthy of the highwayman than the gentleman. The exact time when it took place would be a curious subject of enquiry: certainly, no token of it appears in the papers before us; and the Tatler makes frequent reference to the long sworded duellists of his day, who alarmed the peaceable in coffee-houses and other places of resort. Probably, the disuse of the sword as a part of dress, and the consequent neglect of the "noble science of defence," were the causes of this important alteration. That disuse dates considerably later than the period we are treating of, and the sword was the gentleman's appendage within the memory of many of that class now living. It is singular that the physicians were those who retained it latest as a part of their common dress, and were accustomed thus *doubly armed* to invade their patient's chambers. To return to the pistol—it was, doubtless, at first supposed to put combatants nearly upon a par, and I believe it was long reckoned somewhat dishonourable to practice firing with it at a mark. At present, the difference of skill in this weapon seems to be nearly as great as in the sword; and pistol duels are now become sufficiently murderous to satisfy the nicest honour.

If the frequency of private combats is likely to bear a proportion to the number of individuals subjected to the laws of honour, it might be concluded that the present age, in which every man who does not work at a manual trade, or stand behind a counter, assumes the rank of *esquire*, would be abundantly productive of such encounters. But neither is this a new folly. The 19th number of the Tatler is devoted to the ridicule of self-created squires, who at that time seem to have consisted of the generality of house-keepers west of Temple-Bar, and especially of all the retainers of the law, of

whatever rank or condition. The writer speaks of a couple of clerks of his own who leave notes on each other's desks, directed to Degory Goosequill Esq. and Nehemiah Dashwell Esq. But although he asserts that this humour has gone so far, that Englishmen may be termed "Populus Armigerorum," I think it cannot be doubted that the abuse is now much more prevalent than formerly. Of this we may be convinced on looking over any list of subscribers to a charitable institution, or of the members of any public establishment, in which nothing is more rare than to find a name undecorated by the above three letters. The excess, indeed, to which this petty vanity is carried, is likely to prove its own remedy, since it will soon be a more obvious mark of distinction to write plain Mr. than Esquire.

To be continued.

For the Athenæum.

VIEW OF THE ELY FENS.

IF the majority of our summer tourists were asked what were their inducements to visit one part of the kingdom rather than another, the only reason they could honestly give would be, that other people did so. Curiosity and the desire of change lead them annually to spend a certain portion of their time and money in travelling; but the direction of these propensities is left entirely to the capricious Goddess of Fashion, and they would follow her as cheerfully to the moors of Cornwall or the wolds of Yorkshire, as to the lakes of Westmorland or the mountains of Wales. There is, however, a numerous tribe whose acquired taste for that undefinable thing *the picturesque*, limits their rambles to the spots where that is to be found; and in their lists of places to be seen, they comprehend only those to which it is worth while to carry a portfolio. Others, again, with tastes more expanded, but still exclusive, can take delight in nothing but the sublime and beautiful of nature, and look with coldness on the creations of human art, or the ordinary variations of rural scenery.

But surely an enlarged and liberal curiosity would scorn to be confined to any particular set of objects, and would wish to extend its researches to every thing that the creator has made, and that man has occupied. Independently of the purpose of storing the mind with useful knowledge, even amusement, the great aim of persons of leisure, requires a large range for the pursuit of that *novelty* which is essential to its gratification; for nothing is more certain than that a single set of objects, however splendid, will pall and become insipid by repetition. Perhaps, of all tastes, that for the mere picturesque soonest becomes tiresome; for when the most striking scenes of this class have been surveyed, nothing is left but inferior ones of the same kind, and disappointment and disgust succeed to rapture. I have not unfrequently

quently known it happen to travellers, in whom natural feeling was not stifled by pedantry and affectation, that, tired with wandering through a wild and romantic country, they have experienced undisguised pleasure on emerging into a tame tract of cultivation, filled with "the smiling works of man." Such a tract, but with many circumstances of singularity that render it a *novel spectacle* to most British tourists, I now proceed to sketch.

The Isle of Ely, comprehending the northern part of Cambridgeshire, is a considerable portion of that extensive tract of fen or low country, which stretches from the east of Huntingdonshire to the west of Norfolk, and northwards through the south-eastern division of Lincolnshire. The Cambridgeshire fens, strictly speaking, are not confined to the Isle of Ely, but spread with the beds of the Ouse and Cam to a small distance from Cambridge. The *Isle*, however, is emphatically the fenny part, and is chiefly separated from the rest of the county by the old channel of the Ouse, which river flows from the Huntingdonshire to the Norfolk border, and washes the city of Ely in its course.

The face of the country is one vast plain, stretching beyond the reach of sight; interrupted on the southern side by one or two ridges of comparatively high land, but in all its northern portion presenting only some small elevations, which just lift the villages seated upon them above the general level. This whole tract is naturally a marsh, subject to be laid under water in rainy seasons by the rivers which creep through it to the sea, and rendered habitable and cultivable only by means of immense labour expended in cutting drains across it in various directions. Into these the water is raised by means of windmills, which pump it up from the ditches that every where intersect the low grounds, and it is kept in by high banks which confine it on a level higher than that of the adjacent country. The most considerable of these works consists of the *Old and New Bedford Rivers*, so called from the noble family of Bedford, who have also given the name of the *Bedford Level* to the whole tract which they were so instrumental in improving. These rivers, which completely cut across the Isle of Ely, make a communication from the Ouse at Earith within the Huntingdonshire border, to the same river at Denver-sluice near Downham in Norfolk. They run almost perfectly straight and parallel in the direction of N. N. E. for about 21 miles, leaving between them a space from two to six furlongs in breadth, called the Wash, which is always under water in winter, but in the summer is used as meadow and pasture. The Old Bedford river is now scarcely employed for the purpose of navigation; but the New, or Hundred-foot drain, is the main channel for vessels passing from the upper to the lower parts of the Ouse, and has superseded the passage along the natural river, which makes a large bend to the eastward of it. This artificial river receives the spring-tides as far as its origin at Earith, whence may be estimated the small elevation of the inland country above the surface of the sea. The Nen, which crosses the north-western part of the Isle, is in like manner led through an embanked channel. It com-

municates by a navigable branch with the Bedford river, and thus a system of navigation is formed equally complete with that of drainage.

The fen banks afford a good horse-track, and a view is presented from them which, though at length tiresome from its uniformity, is not without its attractions. The water lies in a long reach before you, stretching beyond the sight, bordered at intervals with ozier beds, (here called holts) and crowned with scattered houses and pumping-mills. Gangs of lighters, tracked by horses, and sometimes aided by sails, enliven the stream. The elevation of the banks gives the traveller a very extensive prospect over the country, in which the drier spots are marked by village steeples and groups of trees, whilst in many parts the eye wanders over a range of level green, varied only by herds of cattle, haystacks, and some detached farm buildings. Pollard willows sometimes border the ditches that form the separation of lands, and relieve the general nakedness. The surface has all the varieties of rushy moor, grassy meadow, and cultivated field. The corn in the lower tracts, consists almost entirely of oats; while in the elevated parts all the species of grain are successfully grown. A common crop is coleseed, which is raised both for the winter-feeding of sheep; and for the seed, whence oil is extracted. Mustard, flax, and hemp, are also among the articles of culture. In general, the drainage of the Ely fens is so complete that it enables the land to produce whatever is most suitable to its soil; and much of it is exuberantly rich.

Among the objects presented by nature, the botanist will find a large variety of aquatic plants in great luxuriance; and the ornithologist will be entertained with a number of birds, not, indeed, equal to that of some of the unreclaimed fens of Lincolnshire, but sufficient to excite his attention. The heron is frequent by the sides of the drains or in the watery plashes, and by his tall stature and wide spread of wings, makes a principal figure among the feathered tribe. These places are also the resort of various kinds of gulls, with the tern, or sea-swallow. The pewit or lapwing fills the moors with its clamour. Stares or starlings abound throughout the fens, and often collect in such flocks as to form black clouds hovering over the ground, and amusing the spectator by their continual change of form and appearance. The common birds of prey are kites and buzzards. In winter a great variety of the duck kind, and other water-fowl, come up the washes, and offer a valuable capture to the fowler. Of the fish, pikes and eels are the most abundant; and in the spring season smelts run up the Bedford river in great shoals.

It has been remarked, that where the energies of man are excited by circumstances of hardship and necessity, they generally proceed so far as to render his situation more abundant in conveniences than where indolence is favoured by the bounty of nature. This is the case with Holland, compared to the rest of Europe; and it appears to be that of the fens of Ely, compared to some of the more desirable counties of England. The villages in this tract are for the most part well built, and have an air of comfort not usual in the common agricultural districts. That of Earith is even provided with a flagged foot-pavement for

for its whole length, a valuable accommodation in a low site which cannot fail of being very wet and miry in the winter. The pale brick and tile manufactured in these parts give a very neat appearance to the houses, and the reed thatch of the barns and cottages is extraordinarily warm and durable. Many of the churches are handsome, and have tall steeples visible at a great distance—the landmarks of this naked tract. The cathedral of Ely, one of the largest and most remarkable edifices of the kind, is a conspicuous object to a wide circumjacent country.

The inhabitants of the fens are chiefly engaged in farming, and many of the farmers are opulent. They feed numbers of cattle, and the sheep of the upland districts are frequently sent hither in the winter to fatten on the coleseed. The brewing trade is considerable in several of the towns and villages; for the people are a thirsty tribe, and avail themselves of the excuse of a moist air and bad water, to counteract the former and correct the latter, by potations of as much strong beer as they can procure. In particular, those labourers who are employed in the important task of keeping the banks in repair (provincially termed *bankers*) are as mighty to drink as to work. The natives in general are a stout broad-set race, many of them with black hair and dark complexions. The population is scanty in proportion to the space of ground, and much of the harvest-work is done by Irish labourers. Few gentlemen of large estates reside in the fens, as the country is unfit for sporting, and certainly does not abound in rural beauty. The magistrates are principally the clergy, several of whom enjoy ample livings. The markets of the district are Cambridge, Ely, and Wisbeach.

Although trees are now scarce in the fens, and almost confined to willows and other aquatics, yet the bodies of oaks of large dimensions still frequently dug up in the lowest and wettest tracts prove that the country at some remote period was well wooded, and probably in great part a forest. As it is certain that before the drainage, a century and a half ago, it was much more a morass than at present, conjecture is puzzled to determine at what remote era the soil could be capable of bearing timber-trees, where even now no one would think of planting them. Some of the trunks dug up are still serviceable wood. In the same parts very black turf or peat is cut, which is the common fuel. The oziers are an article of profit to the planters from their sale to the basket-makers. The peeling of them, after steeping in pits, is one of the occupations of the poor.

Such are the most prominent features of a portion of this island, which, from its strongly-marked character and peculiar circumstances, is well worthy of being visited by all who travel for knowledge or amusement, though a long residence or a repetition of visits is more than can be claimed for it, except from those who are particularly interested in the objects it presents. To the sentimental surveyor it will afford a pleasure of a higher class than that which is merely taken in by the eye—the gratifying reflection, that the powers bestowed upon man

man are adequate to procure him a comfortable existence even where nature appears to have multiplied her difficulties and discouragements.

A.

For the Athenæum.

THE CONTRAST; OR PEACE AND WAR.

LOVELY art thou, O PEACE! and lovely are thy children, and lovely are the prints of thy footsteps in the green valleys.

Blue wreaths of smoke ascend through the trees, and betray the half-hid cottage: the eye contemplates well thatched ricks, and barns bursting with plenty; the peasant laughs at the approach of winter.

White houses peep through the trees; cattle stand cooling in the pool; the casement of the farm-house is covered with jasmine and honey suckle: the stately green-house exhales the perfume of summer climates.

Children climb the green mound of the rampart, and ivy holds together the half demolished buttress.

The village bells ring, the bashful bride advances; her eyes are cast down at the gaze of the admiring crowd, but conscious beauty dwells there, and love, smiling through her fears.

The old men sit at their doors; the gossip leans over her counter; the children shout and frolick in the streets.

The house-wife's stores of bleached linen, whiter than snow, are laid up with fragrant herbs; they are the pride of the matron, the toil of many a winter's night.

The wares of the merchant are spread abroad in the shops, or stored in the high-piled warehouses; the labour of each profits all: the inhabitant of the north drinks the fragrant herb of China; the peasant's child wears the webs of Hindostan.

The lame, the blind, and the aged, repose in hospitals; the rich, softened by prosperity, pity the poor—the poor, disciplined into order, respect the rich.

Justice is dispensed to all. Law sits steady on her throne, and the sword is her servant.

WAR.

They have rushed through like a hurricane, like an army of locusts they have devoured the earth, the war has fallen like a water-spout and deluged the land with blood.

The smoke rises not through the trees, for the honours of the grove are fallen; and the hearth of the cottager is cold; but it rises from villages burned with fire, and smouldering ruins, spread over the now naked plain.

The

The ear is filled with the confused bellowing of oxen, and sad bleating of over-driven sheep; they are swept from their peaceful plains; with shouting and goading are they driven away; the peasant folds his arms, and resigns his faithful fellow-labourers.

The farmer weeps over his barns consumed by fire, and his demolished roof, and anticipates the driving of the winter snows.

On that rising ground, where the green turf looks black and scathed with fire, yesterday stood a noble mansion; the owner had said in his heart, here will I spend the evening of my days and enjoy the fruit of my years of toil, my name shall descend with mine inheritance, and my children's children shall sport under the trees which I have planted.—The fruit of his years of toil is swept away in a moment; wasted, not enjoyed; and the evening of his days is left desolate.

The temples are profaned; the soldier's curse resounds in the house of God; the marble pavement is trampled by iron hoofs; horses neigh beside the altar.

Law and order are forgotten, violence and rapine are abroad, the golden cords of society are loosed.

The maidens look down as they walk, and salute no one; their faces are averted when their lovers approach. They looked down before; they blushed before; but a sweet smile played on their lips, and their rapid glances mingled souls: now a livid paleness is on their cheek; they shun the beloved of their hearts: they look not, they speak not; they will never look up again, they will never smile again; the spoiler has passed over the gardens of delight, and his breath has blighted them; the flowers hang their heads, and wither on the stalk.

Here, is the shriek of woe and the cry of anguish: and there, suppressed indignation bursting the heart with silent despair.

The groans of the wounded are in the hospitals, and by the road side, and in every thicket; and the house-wife's web, whiter than snow, is scarcely sufficient to staunch the blood of her husband and children—Look at that youth; the first born of her strength: yesterday he was agile as the roe-buck; glowing as the summer fruits; active in sports, strong to labour: he has passed in one moment from youth to age: his comeliness is departed; helplessness is his portion, for the days of future years. He is more decrepid than his grandsire, on whose head are the snows of eighty winters; but those were the snows of nature, this is the desolation of man.

As the scum ariseth to the top, when a pot is boiling over; so every thing unholy and unclean comes abroad from its lurking place, and deeds of darkness are done beneath the eye of day. The villagers no longer start at horrible sights; the soothing rites of burial are denied, and human bones are tossed by human hands.

No one careth for another; every one, hardened by misery, careth for himself alone.

Lo these are what God has set before thee: child of reason! son of woman! which does thine heart incline unto? A. L. B.

For

For the Athenæum.

Sir,

SOME months ago a considerable interest was excited by a trial for bigamy which seemed likely to produce a decision concerning the validity of Gretna-green marriages. That expectation, however, was not fulfilled; for the judge refused to receive the testimony of the man who officiated in the ceremony, as to what constituted a legal marriage in Scotland. Since that time I have felt a desire, in which, I doubt not, many others have concurred, to obtain an authentic solution of the latter question; and I think it would be esteemed a valuable article in the Athenæum, should any of its correspondents, versed in Scotch law, undertake to answer it.*

If it should turn out, that any person, without any previous qualification, civil or ecclesiastical, may take upon himself to pronounce a young couple man and wife, and that his attestation that they acknowledge themselves as such is sufficient to substantiate the union, I shall lament that so gross a barbarism in a most important point of police, should subsist in so enlightened a country. When the awful consequences of an indissoluble union between two persons who are thenceforth to depend on each other for almost every thing that renders life desirable, and whose common offspring are to be the inheritors of their name and property, is considered, it must surely appear an enormous defect in any social institution, that such a contract is suffered to be entered into by mere children, without the intervention of any one to warn the thoughtless of their rashness, or the credulous and ignorant of the snares that may have been laid for them. I confess, I can hardly conceive a more culpable negligence in legislation than such a laxity in so serious a concern. Nor is it one of those cases in which civil institutions have refused to take cognizance of men's actions; for the indissolubility and other consequences of the connubial tie are entirely the creation of human laws. Thus, shackles are formed for the inhabitant of the civilized country, from which the savage is free; whilst no care is taken that the assumption of those shackles should be performed with the discretion and deliberation requisite in a common bargain. I am by no means here intending to suggest objections against the terms of the marriage contract as usually prevalent in civilized and christian countries; for I am convinced that, notwithstanding the partial evils resulting from the strictness and perpetuity of the obligation, much greater would arise from rendering the bond lax and temporary. But, the conditions being thus necessarily rigorous,

* We entirely join in opinion with our correspondent, and shall be much obliged by such a communication. Editor.

rous, it is surely the more incumbent upon society to guard its members from being inconsiderately and prematurely betrayed into it.

What appears to me essential to constitute a proper marriage is—that the parties should produce evidence of their being arrived at a certain age, unless when the union is sanctioned by the express consent of parents or guardians—that it should be celebrated with public notoriety, either arising from the place and mode, or from the official character of the person presiding at the rites—and that an authentic record should be made of the transaction. The age at which it may be contracted at the sole will of the parties, seems naturally indicated by that of majority with respect to other contracts; at least, as the most important of all contracts, it should not anticipate that period. The form of the ceremonial, as far as it includes a mutual vow or promise, should be uniform under the same civil constitution, since its legal consequences are to be universally alike.

The maxim, that the marriage which is good to the natives of the country in which it is celebrated, holds good also with respect to foreigners, may be admitted as a clause of the law of nations, where there is a correspondence in the forms of celebration as to the essential points above-mentioned. But if any country is so careless or barbarous in its institutions as to make no provision for accuracy in a matter of so much moment, it does not deserve to be admitted within the pale of this common polity. The Scotch-border marriages are so deficient in every point of due solemnization, that, if really protected by the law or usage of Scotland, they ought to have been expressly excepted against in our Marriage-Act, as totally at variance with the spirit of that (in my opinion) wise and politic statute.

Your's, &c.

COSMUS.

For the Athenæum.

"My dear Sir, (says a writer) you cannot have every virtue under the sun for twenty pounds a year." The author of the following letter seems to have had this lesson to learn. It is a genuine epistle, sent by a deceased nobleman of the sister-island to a very respectable gentleman of the same country; and as there is no one now to be hurt by the exposure of foibles which were conspicuous enough during the lifetime of the person in question, it is presented as an amusing curiosity to the readers of the Athenæum.

DEAR SIR,

A GARDENER of the name of Mackey has applied to me to come in that capacity to *Merveille*, and among other very good discharges, encloses one of yours, which speaks indeed so highly in his favor as far as it goes, as to need no other recommendation, but I wish to know of you if he can look over my home domain, and im-

provements, and view the various edifices, I have decorated it with, and take care to keep them in good order, as well as my garden. If he is master of green, and hot, and ice house business, and conservatory, pines, vines, grafting, budding, the care and management of bees, hops, gold and silver fish, gold and silver pheasants, of various fowl, and fish, and boats, as a menagerie and lake comes under his department, and several orchards. If he has a family, is a Protestant, and a *good shot*, and what salary he had from you, and how much ground in your garden, and how many men, women, and girls, and boys he required, to keep it in good order, if frugal and managing, affording plenty, and no waste, and skilled in propagating every species of trees, shrubs, evergreens, and nurseries, as I annually plant out *twenty thousand* or *thirty thousand* of all sorts and am now about making a screen and drive through my domain, making fosses and fences and clumps all of which must be preserved from cattle. When I have your answer in respect to these particulars in which I am very *exact* and that he is capable of keeping regular accounts and knowing something of mensuration, surveying, laying out, and improving, draining, and dividing grounds. Cattle buying in and selling out, keeping of all *exact* accounts; for though I have a steward he can only oversee being retained by me as an old follower of the family and a faithful honest man, but wholly deficient in all the above *requisites*. I possibly may dismiss the gardener I have at present who can do all the above but he is grown very negligent since I have let him a farm and a house I call Bijou which I built as a banqueting house and as an ornament to my domain which with a wife and several children engross that attention I want in a servant. As you have parted with your beautiful place and have no country residence, a brother-in-law and a daughter settled in this vicinage why wont you and Lady —— and any of your family yet with you come and pass part of the summer here, we have every agrémen for in and out-door amusement, all sorts of music and musical instruments, books in all languages and sciences as you are a literati and a statesman I can match you to a tittle. Lady Z—— is a mistress of languages, music, and painting, and in truth of all the *belle arts*, so that we blend pleasure and profit, omni tulit punctum qui miscuit utile dulci and we have a full, gay, and pleasant neighbourhood, which affords much satisfaction to Lady Z—— as well as to my dear Sir,

Your affectionate kinsman,

And faithful servant, &c.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

THE perusal of Mr. Giffard's valuable edition of Massinger's works has suggested to me remarks upon two passages, which I beg leave through your miscellany to lay before the public.

In

In the MAID OF HONOUR, Act II. Scene 2, the *Page* says to *Sylli.*

hold my cloak
While I take a leap at her lips; do it, and neatly,
Or, having first tripped up thy heels, I'll make
Thy back my footstool.

Syll. Tamberlane in little!
Am I turn'd Turk! What an office am I put to!

The editor's note upon "turn'd Turk" is, "Is my situation or occupation changed!" But it is a manifest allusion to the historical anecdote, that Tamerlane, after making a captive of the Turkish emperor Bajazet, set his foot upon his back while he mounted his horse.

In the PICTURE, Act III. Scene 6, on the passage

Such a soldier and a courtier never came
To Alba regalis,

A note says, "Mr. M. Mason reads Aula Regalis. Why this change should be thought necessary, I cannot tell. Alba regalis was no uncommon expression at that time, and indeed is used by more than one writer for the English court."

It would have been gratifying to the curious reader, if Mr. G. had adduced his instances; but, in fact, *Alba regalis* is the name of the ancient capital of Hungary, in which country the scene of the play is laid.

Yours, &c.
N. N.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

SIR,

INDUCED by a desire of rescuing from inanity of sense part of a line in Horace, Ep. I. i. &c. the object of my present appeal, if not inconsistent with your plan, may perhaps elicit the remarks of happier commentators.

The passage to which I allude is as follows:

Virtus est vitium fugere; et sapientia prima Stultitia carvisse——

The latter clause needs no elucidation: but, as the first now stands, Horace does little more than affirm that virtue is not vice: at most, the fullest extent of the interpretation applicable to these words would persuade those who implicitly adopted them to allot an equal share of merit, to the hebetated and cloistered recluse, who 'dreams his life away,' and those active energies which inspired the bosoms, directed the operations, and expanded the fame, of a FALKLAND, a SYDNEY, a CHATHAM, or a FOX——

Fortunate animæ longaq' in sæcula dignæ! *Stat. Theb. I*

This error, however, may easily be obviated by inserting a comma after '*virtus;*' to qualify '*prima*' as an adjunct both to that word and to '*sapientia.*' Thus, Sir, will that '*merum sal*' recover its atticism, which elsewhere distinguishes the Augustan Gentleman, Scholar, and Courtier. "Our first efforts in virtue, must be preceded by a dereliction of vice: our access to knowledge is introduced by a renunciation of Folly."

Surely, this version is far preferable to the only translation of which its former punctuation was susceptible.

The system of points at present applied to the ancient languages is often calculated to perplex the *tyro*, and occasionally, mislead the student; nor is their pronunciation better regulated; a treatise on these subjects forms in my opinion, a desideratum in classic literature.

My sole proposition by this letter is integrity of sense; and whether my emendation be invalidated or refuted by other contributors, their annotations, as a wooer of '*amica veritas*,' will be perused with equal candour by

Δοκιμαστης L. S.

Tower-Hill.

For the Athenæum.

MURATORI, in his "Antichità Italiane," has a curious chapter on *Rappresaglie, (Reprisals)* from which some extracts may perhaps be interesting to an English reader; for although we are familiar enough with Reprisals by sea, the notion of a similar policy by land will probably be new to those who have not studied the history of the dark ages in Europe.

He begins with the following quotation from Malvezzi's Chronicle of Brescia. "About this time (A. D. 1289) Reprisals were granted in the several states of Lombardy; which practice prevailed so far to the detriment of the public, that not only the conveyance of merchandize from place to place was suspended, but that no one undertook journeys to foreign states. In fine, the abominable custom of Reprisals occassioned discord and many evils not only throughout Lombardy, but all Italy and even some other countries." An antient writer thus defines the practice—"Reprisals are said to take place, when any native of one district is robbed or otherwise damnified by the native of another; or even if he is refused payment of a debt; for then, the person aggrieved is empowered to satisfy himself at the expence of any one belonging to the district of the robber or debtor." Thus (says Muratori) if it should happen that any Modenese were despoiled by a Bolognese, and upon carrying his complaint to the magistrates of Bologna, could obtain no redress, he then applied for relief to his own magistrate, who granted him the right of *reprisals*, that is, the right of stripping any Bolognese of as much had been as taken from him: and the same thing took place if a Bolognese debtor should refuse to pay a Modenese creditor. Of the licence for such an

act

act of violence there is no vestige in the laws of antiquity, since those sage legislators conceived it an injustice to make one person pay for what was due by another. But it seems evident that such reprisals were common after the tenth or eleventh century of the christian æra, when the cities of Italy were become free, and formed separate republics, frequently at strife with each other. These disorders were augmented by the quarrels between the popes and emperors, and the Guelf and Ghibelline parties, which spread division through the whole country, and rendered it a scene of rapine and violence.

The system of reprisals appears in as equitable a form as it was capable of in the statutes of the Modenese, A. D. 1327. These enjoin that before reprisals should be granted to any individual who had been robbed in another city or district, or was refused payment of a debt, a diligent enquiry should be made into the truth of his case. If his claim should appear just and clear, the community was to write in his favour to the other community. If letters were of no avail, the community was to send a person in a public character to the city of the robber or debtor, to enquire further into the fact, and seek the remedy provided by the law of nations. In case no regard was paid to this mission, then permission was to be given for making reprisals. All that should be taken from a citizen or inhabitant of the community refusing justice was to be put up to auction, and satisfaction to be made out of it to the injured person. The care of these reprisals was committed to the merchants' consuls. If any city should decree reprisals against any Modenese it was the business of the Podesta (chief magistrate) of Modena to interpose in order to divert the stroke by way of agreement, and exempt his people, if possible, from all mischief. By a farther law it was enacted, for the public advantage of the merchants, that the Podesta of Modena, in the first month of his office, should enquire and refer to the general council concerning the terminating of all reprisals subsisting between the community and men of Modena, and those of Parma, Cremona, Reggio and other cities, in order that the men of Modena might go and come with their persons and goods securely in the said cities." Arbiters were at length appointed between neighbouring cities to decide all controversies relative to reprisals; and in fine, decrees were made condemning the communities themselves, and not individuals, in costs and damages, which was an important step to the abolition of the custom of reprisals. For when the communities were obliged to answer for the defaults or violences of their members against those of another community, it became their interest to see that justice was done to strangers according to the law of nations; and thus all pretexts for private retribution were abrogated. Permissions for reprisals therefore ceased to be granted, as societies became better ordered and more enlightened; and the practice finally went into total disuse in Italy, and also in Germany, whither it had penetrated.

A.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

Of the moral pieces of Horace, which I think by much the most valuable of his works, there is no one which I read with more entertainment than the third satire of the second book, in which, under the person of Damasippus, he undertakes to show that insanity may be predicated of the great mass of mankind, as well as of those who are formally reckoned insane. The vivacity and humour with which he supports this thesis are truly admirable; and what is more, there is a fund of good-sense and sound philosophy in the ground of his argument, which entitles it to serious attention. In fact, nothing is more difficult than to establish such a definition of insanity as shall not include a multitude of persons who walk about and perform the usual functions in society, whilst in some one point they appear entirely to have discarded the guidance of reason.

This Damasippus, it seems, was a great virtuoso; a nice judge of antient works of art, and an adept in calculating the value of fine houses and gardens. This turn led him to be a constant frequenter of auctions, and in the natural course of things, to throw away all his property. When he found himself ruined, in a fit of vexation for his folly, he hurried away to the Tiber with the intention of drowning himself; but by good fortune he fell in with a stoical acquaintance, who diverted him from his purpose by offering to prove that he had no occasion to think worse of himself than of the rest of mankind, who, examined by the test of philosophy, would all appear as insane as he. Damasippus then, in a dialogue with Horace, goes on to repeat the stoic's train of reasoning. He begins with enquiring what madness is, and defines it to be every species of mental blindness which proceeds from folly or ignorance of the truth of things. From this position it is not difficult for him to comprehend among the insane every man who lies under the dominion of a ruling passion, or who deviates in his conduct from the ordinary maxims of prudence and good sense. He then, in a very lively and dramatic style of narrative, proceeds to give examples of insanity in the instances of the avaritious, the ambitious, the superstitious, the spendthrift, the lover, and the like. When he has gone through his catalogue, Horace says to him, "Tell me, now, what kind of madness I labour under, for to myself I seem in my sober senses." "What! (replies Damasippus) do you think, that when the frantic Agave carried in her hand the head of her unhappy son, she thought herself mad?" He then gives him some proofs of his irrationality. "In the first place, you build, that is, you ape the tall, when you are only two feet high. Do you think that it becomes you to do whatever Mecænas does? Then you write verses, which if ever any man did in his senses, perhaps you may. I say nothing of your fits of furious rage, of your ambition to make a figure beyond your fortune, of your promiscuous amours——"

amours ——" Here Horace can bear no more, and puts an end to the dialogue by crying for mercy.

It is evident that the poet in this piece has assumed a principle in its extreme, for the purpose of scattering the shafts of satire widely around him; but without admitting the stoical dogma in its full extent, it may serve as the ground of a sober discussion of the question, What is the essence of insanity?

To this question I find that some of the acutest enquirers have nothing more precise to answer, generally, than that it is a manner of thinking and acting different from that of the majority; so that the reply of the patient in Bedlam, who was asked what he was put there for, seems to have been perfectly correct: "I thought the world mad, and the world thought me mad, and I was out-voted." Since, however, there are few individuals who do not in some of their opinions and actions differ from the majority, whom yet no one thinks to be insane, there must be something extraordinary, either in the kind or degree of such difference, to justify the character of insanity. In some cases the error of the mind is so obvious and decided, that none but the patient himself can doubt of it; as when a person fancies himself to be a king or emperor, or imagines that the objects around him are totally different from what they appear to every other man's senses. Thus the citizen of Argos, mentioned by Horace, conceived himself, while sitting in an empty theatre, to be a spectator of admirable tragedies, and took great pleasure in the delusion. Yet he was one

> Cætera qui vitæ servaret munia recto
> More; bonus sane vicinus, amabilis hospes,
> Comis in uxorem, posset qui ignoscere servis,
> Et signo læso non insanire lagenæ;
> Posset qui rupem et puteum vitare patentem:

which lines Pope has thus imitated;

> In all but this, a man of sober life,
> Fond of his friend, and civil to his wife;
> Not quite a madman tho' a pasty fell,
> And much too wise to walk into a well.

Clear, however, as this case of madness is, who will draw the line between it, and that hypochondriacism which makes a man fancy that his nose is too big to pass through a door, or his legs too slender to bear his weight? Physicians call such a mental affection a *hallucination* of the ideas; but it wants nothing except permanence to entitle it to the denomination of real lunacy.

Of conceptions of things widely different from those of the rest of mankind, who are more palpable examples than the tribe of wild theorists and extravagant projectors? These men entertain with full persuasion propositions that to common sense appear manifestly absurd; and are totally blind to objections and difficulties that to every one besides appear insurmountable. The theorist will stake his reputation, and the projector his fortune, upon such conceptions, to the certain detriment

triment of both. Ardent in the pursuit of some great end, they are incapable of any just calculation of means; and this disproportion of means to end is a constant concomitant of the speculations of a mind in which fancy predominates over reason. I was lately told of a remarkable instance of a project originating in the brain of a person labouring under temporary derangement. Being allowed the use of pen and paper, he drew up a scheme, enforced with considerable powers of eloquence, for extinguishing all wars and contentions among mankind. Assuming for his fundamental position, in consequence, I suppose, of reading the late discussions concerning population, that all these disorders arose from the want of land enough to spread upon, he proposed that a machine should be invented (which might easily be done) for stretching out the coasts, so as to occupy the surrounding space of sea, now useless to the purposes of human subsistence. "Thus," said he, "Ireland (of which he was a native) might be extended indefinitely westward; England, south-west-ward; and so forth." Projects, in a small degree less absurd, have frequently proceeded from persons not in a lunatic house. The late Dr. Darwin has given abundant proof of possessing not only a sound mind, but an uncommon degree of sagacity; but if he had been known only by his schemes of mending the climates of the frigid and torrid zones by towing ice-islands from the pole to the equator, and of regulating the winds by means of chemical mixtures, I fear, he would have been placed

——— fæcunda in gente Meneni.

If we enter the regions of fanaticism and enthusiasm, we find ourselves treading closely indeed upon the borders of madness, and the line that separates them is almost imperceptible. "Procul, procul este profani!" Far off all ye who wish to preserve the profaneness of reason, while inspiration holds her orgies with her frantic votaries! That a distempered imagination is the usual source of supposed supernatural gifts and impressions of every kind, will scarcely be doubted by any but those who partake of the same affection. It is no objection to this opinion, that such pretensions are often found in alliance with craft and knavery, for it is one of the attributes of madness to display great cunning in the execution of the most irrational plans. This species of half-insanity is distinguished by its singularly contagious quality, so that it often spreads from an individual to become the epidemic of a whole community. In this, indeed, consists its danger to the public; for were it only the malady of a few detached individuals, it might be suffered to take its natural course, till it were extinguished for want of fuel. The Adamites of Amsterdam might have been left to the chastisement of colds and rheumatisms, had not they offended against public decency. In any case, the discipline of a mad-house is much preferable to the old method of fire and faggot; and even that is more severe than is commonly requisite in an enlightened age and country. For my part, I never could discover why poor Brothers was shut up in a cell, while so many other

other "dreamers of dreams" were suffered to go at large, unless there were grounds to apprehend the unpeopling of Duke's Place by an expedition to the Holy Land.

Nearly a kin to the exaltation of mind occasioned by enthusiasm, is the case of violent and uncontroulable passions, which frequently bring a man into a state scarcely distinguishable from madness. A writer, indeed, has happily said of an habitually passionate man, that "he is a madman with lucid intervals." I have known instances of insanity, in which the only symptoms were excessive irritability of temper, joined with an extraordinary proneness to suspicion, while the powers of the intellect remained uncommonly vigorous and acute. How nearly have some very eminent men of admired talents approached to this condition? Without meaning any disrespect to the memory of Mr. Burke, I may instance his dagger-scene in the house of commons, and the perpetual exasperation under which he laboured near the close of life, while the savage scenes of the French Revolution were transacting, as proofs of a temporary privation of the power of self-government. It gives, indeed, a very depreciating idea of human reason, to be told, as they who frequent promiscuous company often are, that there are certain topics which must not be started in the presence of certain persons, lest they should break out into displays of unseemly violence. What is this caution but an avowal that we habitually live among persons who are not masters of themselves, and are fitter for a mad-house than for sober and rational society?

As the extreme of high and fiery spirits treads on the border of one species of insanity, so the gloom and despondency of low spirits is equally on the verge of another. Melancholy madness, indeed, will scarcely admit of any other characteristic than that of the mind dwelling so intensely upon some one distressful idea as to unfit the patient for the ordinary functions and enjoyments of life; and surely the same may be said of a high degree of what has been called spleen or low spirits. The identity of these affections ought, at least, to be maintained by coroner's juries, who generally admit instances of unusual depression to be sufficient proofs of mental derangement to justify verdict of insanity in cases of suicide. The horrible idea of eternal reprobation, which haunts the imagination of so many converts to a a gloomy system of religion, seems indeed, in a susceptible mind, scarcely compatible with the preservation of reason; and it is no wonder that the strongest understandings sink under it.

Another aberration from the common judgment and practice of mankind consists of oddities and singularities in manners and habits of life. Of these some are so extravagant that they may justly be thought to denote a perversion of the rational faculty, whilst others are often found to subsist with an extraordinary degree of good sense. Indeed, the same enlargement of mind and freedom of prejudice which lead a person to think for himself in important matters, will frequently induce him to act in trifles in a way which seems to himself more reasonable than the customary mode, regardless of the hazard of being wondered at, or ridiculed. Aversion to restraint, and contempt of

common forms, are also frequent attendants upon superior talents. From these causes the number of odd characters is very considerable; and it would be a sweeping clause indeed that should establish as a proof of lunacy every harmless whimsicality by which a man may be distinguished from his neighbours. When a late nobleman, who had more law, learning, and argument in his head than most of his order, was represented as incapable of making a will, because he used to wrap his head in his housekeeper's cloak, and occasionally supped on a roasted shoulder of mutton, the imputation was justly scouted; "for who knows (said the chancellor) how far such a rule of inference might reach?" Not but that peculiarities of conduct, though trifling in themselves, may excite a suspicion of some latent irregularity in the human machine, which may hereafter display itself in a more serious deviation. Either Addison or Steele in a paper on this subject mentions a gentleman of great respectability who rendered himself particular only by wearing a short sword when long ones were fashionable. "I watched him narrowly (says the writer) for a course of years, continually expecting that he would break out into some extravagance, when at length, to the surprize of every body but myself, he married his maid."

This story may possibly be a fiction; but in the chronicle of an Annual Register I met with a case of suicide preceded by symptoms of melancholic derangement, in a gentleman who frequented the higher circles, and who had long been noted for the peculiarity of wearing a hat of the same shape for twenty years, notwithstanding all the intermediate changes of fashion.

Nothing is more common in promiscuous society than to meet with persons who have got what is called *a twist*, that is, some wrongheadedness, or eccentricity of practice or sentiment which marks them out from the ordinary race of mortals. This turn not unfrequently is detrimental to a man's affairs, and exposes him to the censure or ridicule of the world, but within certain limits it is tolerated, and accounted no subject for legal interference.

Such a one may be troublesome to his friends, ruinous to his family, and vexatious to himself, but as he does not injure the peace of society, he is suffered to take his course. And after all this discussion, I can come to no other conclusion, than that insanity is such a deviation from common sense, as by the general consent of mankind is thought a sufficient cause for restriction from the usual offices and privileges of of men in the social state. It is not, therefore, for the philosopher, but for the magistrate, to determine upon it; for though it eludes the definition of the former, it is usually obvious enough to the notice of the latter.

Your's, &c.

SCRUTATOR.

P. S. I have said nothing of medical diagnostics of insanity, as I believe none properly corporeal are pretended to exist, and mental derangement

rangement, equally obvious to the common observer, is always deemed necessary to identify it. It is true, there are bodily symptoms which denote the approach of a fit of periodical madness; and there are others which distinguish settled insanity from temporary delirium.

CLASSICAL DISQUISITIONS.

Sketch of the literary History of Greece, being an Introduction to an account of its principal Writers.

ANCIENT Greece, a country more interesting perhaps than any other, as the nursery of arts and science, and once the chosen seat of liberty and public virtue, occupies on the surface of the earth a space but little proportioned to its historical celebrity. The greater part of the country now denominated Turkey in Europe, was almost unknown to the Greeks, and was justly classed among the barbarous tracts of the earth. Beyond Mount Hœmus, their acquaintance with the extensive regions watered by the tributary streams which fall from the south to the Danube, was little superior to our present knowledge of the uncivilized parts of America; and the geography of these countries appears to have remained very obscure till they were opened by the Roman arms, the great instruments for the diffusion of civilization in the ancient world. Even Macedonia and Thrace, though situated to the south of that great chain, were not till after a long period, admitted to the honour of the Grecian name, and a participation in Grecian civilization. In a strict sense, Thessaly and Epirus were the most northern provinces of Greece. To these succeeded, Acarnania, Aetolia, Phocis, Bœotia, Attica and Megaris. Peloponnesus was divided into six states, Achaia, Argolis, Laconia, Messenia, Elis, spreading round the coast, and Arcadia, an inland district, occupying the centre. Thus the whole of this renowned country, including the Peloponnesus, contains, according to the observation of a celebrated geographer, but little more space, than is occupied by the kingdom of Naples on the continent of Italy, together with the adjoining island of Sicily.

This limitation of territory was however in some degree recompensed by an ample share in the allotment of the gifts of nature. Greece is situated in a climate at once favourable to the full developement and active exertion of the human powers, and adapted for many of the richest and most useful productions of the earth. It possesses a large extent of sea-coast, indented with numerous bays and gulphs, and encompassed by many beautiful and fertile islands. The various mountainous chains by which it is intersected, diversify and adorn the face of the country, but at the same time render a considerable proportion of it unfit for the purposes of cultivation.

The splendour of its history and literature, the majesty of its lan-

guage, and the number and grandeur of its works of art, have ensured to this country, and the people by whom it was inhabited, an eminence in the theatre of history, from which it is not likely that they will ever be displaced. If we make due allowance for the remoteness of the transactions of which it treats, and the little apparent connexion which they consequently possess with the manners, institutions, and political events and interests of the present age, the Grecian history presents to us one of the most interesting spectacles which have occurred in human affairs. A country whose extent is not calculated to confer on it more than the rank of a province in many ancient and modern kingdoms, and again subdivided into a number of petty and independent states, has transcended in fame and surpassed in important influence on human affairs, empires which have included within their boundaries, tracts almost commensurate with the great divisions of the globe.

The military achievements of this people are calculated powerfully to strike the imagination. The combats of Marathon and Thermopylæ, of Salamis and Platæa, affect us with an impression little inferior to that, which results from the perusal of the most splendid and important of our national exploits. The contests of Athens and Sparta seem to vie with the rivalship of Rome and Carthage, or of France and Britain. The conquests of Alexander partake of the wonder of romance; they opened distant regions to mutual communication, and laid the foundation of one of the great empires of the earth.

But the records of military glory are more fitted to interest the imagination with a transient and unprofitable pleasure, than to produce a permanent and useful influence on the mind. Even the philosophic student of human affairs however, can find few topics of investigation more important than those which are furnished by the history of the Grecian states. In these countries some of the noblest experiments on the faculties of the human mind which have taken place, were first made. In the wide plains of Asia, while a rich soil and genial climate have long nourished an exuberant population, and ancient civilization, commencing beyond the period of historical record, has brought many of the useful arts to a state of considerable improvement, the chilling influence of despotism appears in almost every period to have debased the mind, and to have locked up its intellectual and moral energies in hopeless inactivity. Centuries of history as they pass present nothing but one dead scene of unvarying mediocrity. In Athens, freedom and civilization seem to have been, for the first time, conjoined, and under this friendly influence, the human faculties were first expanded to their proper dimensions. The rapid progress of arts, science, and elegant literature, from the age of Pisistratus to that of Alexander, is unequalled by any other period in history. Even Sparta, though it cherished a rude insensibility to the charms of literature and the pursuits of philosophy, yet excites a portion of our admiration, by its stern virtue, the durability of its institutions, and the subserviency of private to public feelings; and presents an interesting example of the empire of circumstances

cumstances and education over the human mind, from which the philosopher will not fail to make important deductions.

It is by literary history that Greece possesses its most important connexion with the manners and sentiments of the present age: most of what is elegant in art, or dignified and refined in sentiment, and much of what is grand and enterprizing in philosophy, has descended to us from that nation, or taken rise from its example. Greece does not indeed appear to have been the parent country of any of those arts which are essential to human accommodation; even letters and the elements of learning, she received from Egypt and the East; yet it is here that we first discern the peculiar pictures of European civilization and literature, that equality of social intercourse which is requisite to freedom of mind, philosophy without mysticism, poetry exempt from obscurity and tumour, oratory, simple, dignified, and argumentative, a spirit of bold and well combined investigation, "the temperate dignity of style, the graceful proportions of art, the forms of visible and intellectual beauty, the just delineation of character and passion, the rhetoric of narrative and argument, the regular fabric of epic and dramatic poetry." (Gibbon, x. 51.)

I. The *language* of Greece is confessedly the most polished, exquisite, and powerful of all the modes of speech known to the western nations, and probably no language that ever existed, can be placed in competition with it. It unites in a degree far surpassing other tongues, all the valuable properties of speech, harmony of sounds, copiousness, facility of formation, derivation and composition, and a happy flexibility, equally adapted to the boldest flights of oratory and poetry; the graces of narrative and conversation; or the didactic precision of argument—"a musical and prolific language," as it is expressed by the historian, "that gives a soul to the objects of sense, and a body to the abstractions of philosophy."

The history of the origin and progress of this language, like that of other ancient tongues, is obscure. We are told by historians of a wandering race, called Pelasgians, who seem to have been scattered, at a remote period, over a considerable part of the south of Europe; but all traces of their language have now disappeared.

The primitive inhabitants of Greece are distinguished by Herodotus, in a curious passage, part of which it may not be improper to transcribe, into Pelasgians and Hellenes. "Crœsus," says that historian, "upon enquiry found that the Lacedæmonians and Athenians were the principal nations of Greece, the former of Dorian, the latter of Ionian extraction. These nations had long been thus distinguished, the one being a a Pelasgic, the other an Hellenic tribe." The former (that is, the Pelasgians of Attica, though the testimony of Herodotus with respect to the Pelasgic origin of the Athenians stands alone, and his learned French translator ventures on this occasion to contradict him)—"The former have never yet left their country, the latter have been distinguished by their emigrations."——"What language was employed by the Pelasgians, it is not in my power to say with certainty. If I may deduce a conjecture from that of the Pelasgians who still subsist, and

and inhabit the city Creston beyond the Tyrrhenians, ——or from the Pelasgians who inhabit Placie and Scylace on the Hellespont, ——they used a barbarous mode of speech. And if such was the language of the whole Pelasgian nation, the people of Attica, descended from them, must have abandoned their native tongue, when they were associated with the Hellenes:——"The Hellenes, in my opinion, from the time when they became a people, have used the same language which they now speak."

From many of its roots, the Greek appears in its origin to have been, to a considerable extent, cognate with the Teutonic dialects. Many philologists have supposed it to be derived from that extensive speech, employed in the south-east parts of Asia, from Syria to the remotest extremity of Arabia, which certainly possesses better claims than any other to be the universal parent language, if such an hypothesis is necessary. There are also undeniable specimens of coincidence between this and the Greek, but scarcely sufficient to be considered as affecting the whole body of that language. On the other hand, the Greek is a dialect of so consistent and homogeneous a structure, and so much formed from within itself, that the celebrated Hemsterhusius, the extent and profundity of whose acquaintance with this language have been surpassed by none, and approached by few, and who was the author of an ingenious theory concerning its structure, regarded it as a primitive mode of speech, unindebted for the principal part of its materials to any other tongue.

Passing however from these remote ages, enveloped in mists of antiquity, which we have no means of dispelling, we have in subsequent periods, a clear distinction of the Greek language into dialects. Of these the Ionic and Doric, corresponding with the great divisions of the nation, may be considered as including the rest, the Aeolic being cognate with the Doric, and the Attic descended from the Ionic. To these were subordinate, many local varieties, as the Laconian, Cretan, Rhodian, &c.

The characteristics of the Ionic dialect, like those of the nation, are softness and elegance. It employs an abundance of vowels, and often resolves useless diphthongs into their constituent sounds.

The Ionic language, as the people by whom it was employed approached nearest to the focus of early civilization, appears to have been first cultivated for the purposes of literature. The Ionians are supposed to have passed from Greece to the opposite shores of the Ægæan Gulph; about 1076 years before the Christian æra, this emigration forming one of the most remarkable epochs in the early Greek chronology. It is in Asia that we distinguish the first dawn of Grecian literature. Here, at a period removed beyond the records of accurate history, were composed those wonderful songs, celebrating the events of the Trojan war, and the fortunes of its principal heroes, which have constituted, from that early age, the pride and delight of Greece; which became at a later period, the admiration of Rome and its wide empire; which the efforts of succeeding poets have not surpassed, and to which the impartiality of modern criticism has awarded

awarded an applause, more valuable as more enlightened, and divested of national prepossessions. Nor did the long succession of Ionic poets fail during any period of the classic ages of Greece, so that their dialect became as much consecrated to the uses of epic and didactic poetry, as the Attic to that of the drama, or the Doric, to the lyric chorus.

The Aeolians, the northern neighbours of the Ionians, on the shores of Asia Minor, were originally inhabitants of Thessaly. This country appears to have been the primitive seat of early Greek fable, or at least to have furnished its principal scenes and subjects, as will appear from a classification of the ancient mythi. The emigration of the Aeolians is said to have preceded that of the Ionians, and to have proceeded immediately from Peloponnesus. Their language differed widely, and partook much of the structure of the Doric, though it is frequently considered as a distinct dialect.

The Doric dialect is strongly contrasted with the Ionic. It is distinguished by the predominance of strong and full sounds, and presents to the imagination some analogy to the severer character by which the Doric tribes were discriminated from the Ionic. Grandeur and simplicity are its peculiar characteristics. The Doric dialect appears to have been principally indebted for its cultivation to the philosophers of the south of Italy, a tract of country, from the frequency of its Greek colonies, termed Magna Græcia, and to the poets of Sicily. Many of the lyric poets having employed this language, it was in imitation of them adopted in the chorus of the Attic tragedies. It has also communicated an exquisite charm to the pastoral poesy of Theocritus, which has not been attained by the bucolic writers of any other age or country. We are taught by the ancient grammarians to distinguish two periods of the Doric dialect, the ancient, comparatively harsh and rude; the second, more polished and refined.

The Athenians were an Ionian tribe. The identity of the ancient Attic and Ionic is testified by historians, and supported by the probability of the fact. The few specimens of very early Attic which are preserved, have much of an Ionic cast. But in process of time, they diverged widely from each other. Our earliest considerable specimens of the proper Attic dialect are the writings of Aeschylus. This dialect contains the most valuable part of the Grecian literature, in the departments of dramatic poetry, philosophy, history and oratory. It passed through several changes, the language in the time of Solon being considerably different from that of Thucydides and Plato, and this varying from the style of Lysias and Demosthenes.

At length a common dialect was formed, more allied to the Attic than to the rest, and was considered as the standard Greek. It appears to have come into use about the age of Polybius.

II. The noble invention of letters is a discovery involved in the utmost obscurity. The country where it originated is uncertain; the steps by which it was brought to perfection totally unknown. Such is the ingenuity apparent in this invention, that some philosophers and theologians,

theologians, probably without just reason, have considered it as surpassing the attainment of the human faculties, and from its evident Eastern origin, have concluded that it was a subject of divine revelation to the Israelites. The common account purports that Cadmus, son of Agenor king of Phœnicia, arriving in quest of his sister Europa, in the country afterwards called Bœotia, there formed a settlement, and introduced the art of alphabetical writing into Greece. It is observable that the name Cadmus implies an inhabitant of the East. But besides that this event is referred to the age of mythology, and is therefore in all its parts of very dubious credit, it is highly improbable that the introduction of letters into Greece is of such high antiquity, and indeed doubtful whether their invention in any part of the world can be referred to so remote a period, as to precede the Exodus. This much is certain, that the letters in use among the Greeks, in common with those employed in almost every part of the world, have been derived from some common source in the East, as appears both by their figure, and the names by which they are distinguished.

The early alphabet of the Greeks contained, with the exception of the Digamma, only eighteen letters; the aspirated and double consonants, together with the characters denoting the long vowels, not being then adopted. The additional characters are said to have been introduced by Simonides and Epicharmus. The Ionic letters, as they were termed, were not incorporated with the Athenian alphabet till the Archonship of Euclides, that is, Ol. lxxxviii, 2, or before the Christian Æra 427, as we are informed by several ancient authors, and especially by a curious scholium on the Phœnissæ of Euripides, in which a various reading is proposed, founded on the difference between the ancient and modern alphabets.

As the alphabet of Greece gradually received these accessions, so it lost one letter which appears to have been originally common to all the dialects. This is the Digamma, which probably from the circumstance of having been longer retained in use by the Aeolians than by the other tribes, has received the name of Aeolic. But the poems of Homer, as was first indicated by the sagacity of Bentley, sufficiently shew that it was anciently employed also by the Ionians. It seems in fact to have been originally nothing more than the Vau of the Orientals, and like that letter to have occupied the sixth place in the alphabet. Its power seems to have been that of the modern W. The βαυ επισημον is its legitimate descendant, a character, which, though excluded from the alphabet, retains the numerical power of six. The figure of this sign is not very different from that of the Digamma, under which form also the oriental Vau is very nearly represented on some ancient coins of Palestine.

During a long period after the invention of alphabetical writing, its use appears to have been greatly restricted by the want of substances adapted to the ready reception of characters. Stones, plates of metal, and tablets of wood, were first employed. But these substances could scarcely be used except for short inscriptions, or public treaties

treatise and decrees. Skins were employed by the Ionians, as we are told by Herodotus (v. 58) but at what period, and in what manner they were prepared, we are not informed. The inner barks of some trees were likewise applied to this purpose. Paper, fabricated from the papyrus, was invented in Egypt. When Ptolemy, jealous of the rivalship of the kings of Pergamus in the magnificent institution of a public library, forbade the exportation of the Egyptian papyrus, the use of parchment is said to have been introduced at that city. If we pay attention to the progress of this art, and the preparation of the various substances employed in its service, we can scarcely suppose that its use was very common, or that it rendered any extensive aid to literature, long before the time of Pisistratus.

The limited use which was made of writing in the early periods of Greek history, appears from the existence and importance of an order of men somewhat resembling the bards and minstrels of other ages and countries, under the name of Rhapsodists, whose employment it was to recite either their own productions, or the popular compositions of their age. Of this art we have an early instance in the Demodocus of the Odyssey, who is introduced as singing in a festive assembly of the Phæacians, the fables of heathen mythology, and the exploits of the heroes at the Trojan war. The profession of the Rhapsodists was long held in esteem, nor was it totally extinct even at a period subsequent to the foundation of Alexandria, at the theatre of which city, Hegesias is said to have recited the works of Herodotus, and Hermophantus those of Homer. Their art fell into contempt, when it degenerated into a mercenary performance, professed by ignorant and arrogant men, who scarcely understood the works which they recited, and more especially when the necessity of it was superseded by the more frequent and ready use of alphabetic writing.

III. The preliminary arts, and the cultivation of life and society, having made the requisite progress, learning and science advanced in Greece with rapid steps. If we take a view of the literature of Egypt and the Oriental nations previous to that of Greece, so far as we can judge from the slight memorials of it which now remain, or from modern productions of the East, it appears indeed to have been impressed with a sort of barbaric grandeur, somewhat resembling that of their efforts in architecture, but to have been greatly deficient in the qualities of grace, order, and harmony and connexion of parts. The science of morals seems to have been confined to short disjoined apophthegms; that of physics to have been clouded by allegory and mythology; oratory to have scarcely existed in a higher state than that in which it is now employed by the uncivilized tribes of America; poetry to have been often majestic and sublime, but often turgid, obscure, and irregular. From this indigested chaos gradually arose the beautiful and regular fabric of Grecian science and learning, and though many of the parts were not brought to perfection, yet the foundation was firmly laid, the plan was justly traced, and modern genius and judgement, however admirable, have done little more than to contribute to the completion of the scheme.

Poetry was, during a long period, the only species of composition employed by the Greeks. Though apparently of more artificial structure, it is uniformly found to precede the existence of cultivated prose. Its figurative language and daring conceptions are suited to the natural enthusiasm of the mind in the early stages of civilization, before it is disciplined to order by the regular occupations of artificial society. Its numbers also, besides the pleasures which they furnish to the ear, lend an important aid to the memory, at a period when the transmission of wisdom is chiefly oral, and the mind has no other resource than its own powers of retention, for the preservation of the knowledge which it has once acquired.

The poetry of Greece must have acquired a high degree of cultivation at a very remote period. It cannot be supposed that the polished poems of Homer, complex yet regular in the structure of their language, rich in their stores of expression, and governed by fixed and exact laws of versification, were the earliest efforts of the muse. Yet the greater part of these poems cannot be referred to a later date than the tenth century before the Christian era, though the state in which we have received them without doubt differs greatly from that in which they originally appeared. The controversy, however, which has arisen on the subject, forbids us to refer with confidence the regular structure of epic poetry to that distant age.

It is probable that narrative poetry afterwards flourished in uninterrupted succession. From the time of Homer till the establishment of the Olympiads we have but little knowledge of general history, and still less of the state of learning among the Greeks. At this period, both a clearer and more steady light begins to be thrown upon history, and the efforts of genius become more frequent and successful. It was then that the cyclic poets chiefly flourished. Prior to Solon and the Pisistratidæ, are enumerated the names of many poets who acquired reputation principally in Asia Minor and the adjacent islands. The subjects treated by the cyclic writers, were the *circle* of mythology, and the events of the Trojan war, related in the order in which they occurred. Arctinus the Milesian was the author of a poem entitled the Aethiopis, celebrating the exploits of Memnon, the son of Aurora. Lesches the Lesbian wrote a piece, of which frequent mention is made, which passed under the name of the lesser Iliad, and seems to have nearly coincided in its subject with a work still remaining, the Paralipomene of Quintus Calaber, who was probably much indebted to the cyclic poems extant in his time. Pisander, who wrote on the exploits of Hercules, flourished about the same time, and possessed an eminent place among the authors of the epic cycle.

Lyric poetry is the next branch of the art whose origin we are able to trace. Contemporary with the cyclic writers, were the great lyric poets of Asia, Terpander, Alcman, Alcæus, Sappho. In the age of Solon, we meet with the names of Ibycus, Simonides and Anacreon. Stesichorus flourished at the same time in Sicily. In a more advanced period, occur Pindar, Bacchylides, and Corinna. The lyric poetry

etry of the Greeks was divided into several branches, distinguished by their different styles and subjects, among which may be specified the Dithyrambus, a poem sacred to Bacchus, and admitting, and indeed requiring, the boldest flights of enthusiasm in sentiment and language. The xix ode of the second book, and the xxv of the third book of Horace ("qui de Græcis pendet et totus est in illis") are probably imitations of some ancient poems of this kind. A few fragments of the Dithyrambi of Pindar are still remaining, and the names of several authors of this species of composition are extant.

Didactic poetry commences in some form with Hesiod, who sings the labours of agriculture, and the rules of domestic prudence intermixed with allegory and mythology. Theognis and Phocylides committed to verse the maxims of moral wisdom, though the poem under the name of the latter is probably spurious, and that of the former much interpolated. Xenophanes, Parmenides, and Empedocles wrote philosophical poems; but it is probable that didactic poetry did not attain its appropriate style and ornaments, till it was employed by the writers of the Alexandrian school.

Archilochus is the first certain author of satyrical poetry, though very different in its nature and origin from the satire of the Romans, which they claim as their native production. Archilochus was ranked with the most celebrated poets of Greece. He flourished about the xxiii. Olympiad. The Silli of Timon the Phliasian, of which some fragments remain, were also satyrical poems. The Ibis of Callimachus was a severe personal invective against a rival, and is probably closely imitated in many passages of the Ibis of Ovid.

In the elegy occur the early names of Tyrtæus and Callinus. The ancient and later Greek elegy differed widely in their subjects. The former was of a grave and severe cast. Its chosen themes were patriotism and public virtue; it reprobated sloth and cowardice, and held them forth to scorn and detestation; it sang the praises of military valour when exercised in a just cause, and decorated the tombs of the brave; who fell in defence of their country. It was afterwards devoted as by Mimnermus to love and jollity,

> —Mimnermus uti censet, sine amore jocisque
> Nil est jucundum.

The passage to which Horace here refers is still extant. Most of the Greek elegiac compositions have now perished. It is probable from his style and mythology that Propertius was a close imitator of them.

To be continued.

Dissertation on the Elysian Fields of Antiquity.

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Ει δε ὁτων παλαιων τε ποιητων και φιλοσοφων λογος εστιν αληθης, ωσπερ εικος εχειν ουτω, και τοις ευσεβεσι των μεταλλαξαντων εστι τις τιμη και προεδρια (καθαπερ λεγεται) και χωρος τις αποτεταγμενος, εν ω διατριβουσιν αι τουτων ψυχαι, καλας ελπιδας εχειν.

Plutarch. Consol. ad Apollonium.

"Hesperian fables true." *Milton.*

THE opinion that the souls or spirits of men, who had led a virtuous life here on earth, should, after their decease, be translated into a region of happiness, has been nearly universal among every people, and throughout all ages.

Both civilized and rude nations have concurred in these sentiments, which argues strongly, were there no other reasons, that they have a foundation in nature and in truth.

I do not however mean to enter into any discussion of this kind, but merely to examine some of the opinions of antiquity respecting these rewards of virtue. But previously to entering on the description of these seats of happiness, it may be proper to introduce somewhat respecting the notions of the ancient writers, concerning those beings which were intended to inhabit, or possess them.

We learn from Plotinus, that it was the Pythagoric doctrine "that the soul, although it shall quit the present or mortal body, shall never be totally disunited from all body whatsoever."

"Where our body is," says the same writer, "there is our soul said to be also.

"It may be objected that this cannot be, when there is no longer any body left: we answer that if the Idol (Ειδωλον) of the soul, be not quite separated from it, why should not the soul itself be said to be there also where its Idol is."

Here, by the Idol of the Soul, "Dr. Cudworth remarks, Plotinus seems to mean, an aërial or spirituous body, quickened and vitalized, adhering to it after death." To this Porphyry, who was, as Dr. Cudworth observes, a follower of Plotinus, adds, that "the Soul is never divested quite of all body, but hath always some body or other joined with it, suitable and agreeable to its own present disposition, either a purer, or an impurer one."

Philoponus, another Philosopher of the same sect, adds, "that the rational Soul, as to its own energy, is separable from all body; but

but that the irrational part or life thereof, is separable only from this present or gross body, but not from all body whatever; but hath after death an aërial or spiritual body accompanying it, in which it acteth." One of the purposes of this Ειδωλον, or attenuated, but still material, vehicle, thus united with the Soul, is said to be, in order to render the Soul capable of being punished, in order for its purification and amendment. For the Soul, being in itself incorporeal, was held by the philosophers* to be incapable of suffering, unless when united to body, which being liable to be affected by heat, cold, and external objects, may make the Soul sensible of pain by sympathy, in the same manner as we experience in the present life. This aerial vehicle, or Indumentum of the Pythagoreans, corresponds nearly with the Ειδωλον† of the poet, which was not entirely divested of materiality, but still so much so, as to be an object of sight only, not of touch or corporeal feeling, and like what Lucretius relates of the nature of the Gods, which

——— manuum tactum suffugitque ictum. *Lucret. v. l.* 151.

Ulysses describes the shade or Ειδωλον of his mother Anticlea in the same manner.

Thrice‡ in my arms I strove her shade to bind,
Thrice thro' my arms she slipt like empty wind,
Or dreams, the vain illusions of the mind. *Pope.*

Æneas gives the same account of his father's shade which he met with in Elysium.

Thrice round his neck his eager arms he threw,
Thrice from his empty arms the phantom flew,
Swift as the wind with momentary flight,
Swift as a fleeting vision of the night.

Pitt's Virgil, b. vi. l. 373, &c.

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* See Cudworth's Intellectual System, book i. ch. v. p. 786.

† the Ειδωλον was thought to be immortal as well as the Ψυχη, Ολβια δ' επαυδει αισα λυσιπονον τελευταν, και σωμα μεν παντων επεται θανατω πεφισθεναι, ζων δε λειπεται αιωνος· ειδωλον γαρ μουον εστι εκ θεων. *Fragm. Pindari, citat. in Plutarchi Cons. ad Apollonium.*

‡ Τρις μεν εφωρμηθην ελεειν τε μοι θυμος ανωγε
Τρις δε μοι εκ χειρων σκιη εικελον η και ονειρω
Επτατο·——l. xi. 205. Οδυσσ: &c.

Lucian describes the inhabitants of the Elysian fields in the same manner: "These," says he, "have no bodies, or flesh, and their substance is no object of the sense of touch or feeling. They exhibit a form and an appearance only. Notwithstanding their incorporeal nature, they stand still, move, understand, and emit sounds of human voice. It should seem that the soul itself wandered about divested of every thing but the appearance of body. Were you not to attempt to touch them, you would not believe that what you saw was no subject of touch." *Lucian, Ver. hist. l. ii. 395. edit. Bourdelot. 1615.*

Ter conatus ibi collo dare brachia circum,
Ter frusta comprensa, manus effugit imago;
Par levibus ventis, volucrique simillima somno. *Virgil.*

Silius Italicus has borrowed the description and nearly the words of Virgil on a similar occasion,

His alacer collo, amplexa materna petebat,
Umbraque ter frustra per inane petita, fefellit.
Sil. Ital. Bell. Pun. xiii. 648.

The ghosts of departed persons which were supposed to appear in the present world, were believed to be the Ειδωλα, or attenuated vehicles (though not absolutely the immaterial coverings) of the ψυχη or immaterial Soul. Thus the ghost of Darius which appears in the Persæ of Æschylus is called the Ειδωλον Δαρειου, and that of Polydorus in the Hecuba of Euripides is called the Ειδωλον Πολυδωρου.

In compliance perhaps with these opinions, our Saviour Jesus Christ, in order to prove to his disciples the resurrection of his body, and that it was not his ghost or spirit, that appeared unto them; directs them, to "Touch and handle him," for says he, "a spirit* hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have." Agreeably to which argument of our Saviour Christ, is, as Dr. Cudworth† observes, that of Apollonius Tyanæus mentioned in Philostratus, "Touch‡ me and handle me, and if you find me to avoid the touch, then you may conclude me to be a spirit or ghost, (that is, a soul departed) but, if I firmly resist the same, then believe me really to live, and not to have yet cast off the body."

These Ειδωλα preserved not only the general resemblance of the bodies of the persons to whom they belonged, but even carried with them the marks of the wounds and maims which the respective bodies had undergone; and not of those wounds only which were mortal, but such also has had been inflicted at former periods.

Atque hic Priamiden laniatum corpore toto
Deiphobum vidit, lacerum crudeliter ora,
Ora manusque ambas, populataque tempora raptis
Auribus, et truncas inhonesto vulnere nares.
Æneid. vi. 494.

Here Priam's Son, Deiphobus, he found,
The mangled youth was one continued wound,
For now his face, his beauteous face, appears
Gash'd and dishonoured with a thousand scars,
His hands, ears, nostrils, hideous to survey,
The stern insulting foes had lopp'd away. *Pitt's Translation.*

Mr.

* οτι πνευμα σαρκα και οστεα ουκ εχει καθως εμε θεωρειτε εχοντα. *Luc.* xxiv. 39.
† Cudworth Intell. System, p. 804.
‡ λαβου με, εφη, καν μεν διαφυγω σε ειδωλον ειμι, ει δε υπομειναιμι απλωμενος καθε και ζην τε με και με αποβεβληκεναι το σωμα. *Philostr. Vit. Apoll. Tyanæi.*

Mr. Warton observes in a note on this passage, "That the mangled phantom above described is drawn according to the Philosophy of Plato, who teaches in his Gorgias, that the dead not only retain all the passions of the soul, but all the marks and blemishes of the body."

In like manner the image, or ghost, of Hector, that appeared to Æneas on the fatal night of the destruction of Troy, is painted with all the wounds Hector received in defence of his country, and with all the marks of insult, which were offered to his body after his death.

Tempus erat quo prima quies mortalibus ægris
Incipit, et dono Divum gratissima serpit:
In somnis ecce ante oculos, mæstissimus Hector
Visus adesse mihi, largosque effundere fletus;
Raptatus bigis ut quondam, aterque cruento
Pulvere, perque pedes trajectus lora tumentes.
Hei mihi qualis erat, quantum mutatus ab illo
Hectore, qui redit exuvias indutus Achillis:
Vel Danaum Phrygios jaculatus puppibus ignes.
Squalentem barbam, et concretos sanguine crines,
Vulneraque illa gerens, quæ circum plurima muros
Accepit patrios. *L.* ii. l. 270.

'Twas now the time when first kind Heav'n bestows
On wretched man the blessings of repose,
When in my slumbers Hector seem'd to rise,
A mournful vision to my closing eyes;
Such he appear'd, as when Achilles' car
And fiery coursers whirl'd him thro' the war,
Drawn thro' his swelling feet the thongs I view'd,
His beauteous body black with dust and blood.
Ye Gods! how chang'd from Hector, who with joy,
Return'd in proud Achilles' spoils to Troy;
Now gash'd with wounds that for his Troy he bore,
His beard and locks stood stiffened with his gore."
Pitt's Translation.

In Homer the shade or image of Patroclus not only exhibits his figure, eyes, and visage, but the cloaths also which he had been accustomed to wear.

When lo!* the Shade, before his closing eyes,
Of sad Patroclus rose, or seem'd to rise,
In the same robe he living wore, he came,
In Stature, Voice, and pleasing Look the same.
Pope's Homer, b. xxiii. *l.* 78.

Madame Dacier has given a good explanation of this passage. "The Εἴδωλον or Image in which the mind was lodged, was supposed to resemble the body exactly in shape, magnitude, and features; for this, being in the body, as a statue in its mold, so soon as it goes forth

* Ηλθε δ' επι ψυχη Πατροκλοιο δειλοιο
Παντ' αυτα μεγεθος τε και ομματα καλ' εικυια
Και φωνην και τοια οἱ χροι ειματα εσσε. *Iliad.* xxiii. 65, &c.

forth, is properly the image of that body in which it was inclosed; this it was that appeared to Achilles, with the full resemblance of his friend Patroclus."*

But the Ειδωλον retained not the form only, but the passions and desires also, which had belonged to the living body.

"The corporeal part," says† Socrates in the Gorgias of Plato, "retains not only its general nature, but its affections and desires also in a conspicuous degree. Thus if the body had been, during life, naturally large and bulky, or had become so by a course of diet, it would continue to preserve the same appearance after death. Had a man been remarkably attentive during the life to preserve the beauty of his hair, he would appear after death with graceful locks. Had he suffered the impression of stripes, bruises, or wounds, he would appear with the marks or scars of these after death. Had his limbs been broken or dislocated, these defects would be visible in his image; and indeed whatever might be the state or condition of the living body, such was the appearance of the image after death. The same disposition, adds he, seems to take place with respect to the mental faculties, since all the‡ natural desires, all the affections, are equally conspicuous in the image after death, as they had been in the body during life."

That these opinions coincide with those of Homer, appears from the discourse and employment of the heroes in the eleventh and twenty-fourth Books of the Odyssey.

Thus the shade of Agamemnon sheds a profusion of tears at the sight of his ancient friend Ulysses, and attempts, though in vain, to rush|| into his embraces, and likewise expresses his indignation at the treachery with which his own murder was perpetrated. Both Agamemnon and Achilles make the most anxious enquiries after their sons, and Achilles goes away pleased with the accounts of his son's valour,§ and illustrious actions.

Even the sullen silence and disdain of Ajax, expresses strongly that he retained the same sentiments and character in death, which had distinguished him so remarkably during life.

Orion is represented to have been a great hunter during life, and to have been translated after his death, together with his dog, among the constellations. The dog is still called the Canis Major, and is delineated on the present celestial globes as following Orion. The bright star Sirius is still accounted a part of this constellation, as it was formerly described to be by Homer.

* See the note on this passage in Pope's Translation.

† Platonis Gorgias. p. 524. Vol. i. Ed. Serran.

‡ Plato seems to say in the Phædo, that the Soul carried with it into another world not only those passions and desires which were naturally implanted in it, but those also which were the effects of education and intercourse with society. ουδεν γαρ αλλο εχουσα εις αδου η ψυχη εκβεται πλην της παιδειας τε και τροφης.
Platon. Phædo, p. 107. Ed. Serrani.

|| Κλαιε δ' εγε λιγεως θαλερον κατα δακρυον ειβων
Πιτνας εις εμε χειρας ορεξασθαι μενεαινων. *Odyss.* xi. 390.

§ Πυθεσυνη, ο σι υιον εφην αριδεικετον ειναι. *Odyss.* l. xi. 539.

Not half so dreadful rises to the sight,
Thro' the thick gloom of some tempestuous night,
Orion's dog, the year when autumn weighs,
And o'er the feebler stars exerts its rays!
Terrific glory, for his burning breath
Taints the red air with Fevers, Plagues, and Death.
Iliad, b. xxii. *l.* 73. *Pope's transl.*

The same Orion is represented as following the same pursuits in hell which had employed him on earth.

There huge Orion of portentous size,
Swift thro' the gloom a giant hunter flies.
A ponderous mace of brass with direful sway,
Aloft he whirls, to crush the savage prey.
Stern beasts in trains, that by his truncheon fell,
Now grisly forms shoot o'er the lawns of hell.
Odyssey, b. xi. *l.* 793. *Pope's transl.*

Virgil expresses himself more pointedly on the same subject in saying,

——— curæ non ipsa in morte relinquunt.

Those soft consuming flames they felt alive,
Pursue the wretches, and in death survive. *Pitt's translation.*

And after describing the employment of the ancestors of Æneas in Elysium, he adds

——————— quæ gratia currum,
Armorumque fuit vivis; quæ cura nitentes
Pascere equos, eadem sequitur tellure repostos.
Æneid, b. vi. 653.

Those pleasing cares the heroes felt alive,
For chariots, steeds, and arms, in death survive.
Pitt's translation.

The Εἴδωλον had also a power or capacity of subsisting independently of, and separately from, the ψυχη or immaterial part, and, when so separate, retained the same passions and desires which had pleased or interested the body during life.

Thus Ulysses views the image or figure of Hercules in the infernal shades, apparently in the same character which he held on earth.

Gloomy as night he stands, in act to throw
The aërial arrow from the twanging bow;
Around his breast a wond'rous zone is roll'd,
Where woodland monsters grin in fretted gold,
There sullen lions sternly seem to roar,
The bear to growl, to foam the tusky boar;
There war and havock and destruction stood,
And vengeful murder red with human blood.
Thus terribly adorn'd the figures shine,
Inimitably wrought with skill divine.
The mighty ghost advanced with awful look,
And turning his grim visage, sternly spoke,

O exercised in grief, by arts refined,
O taught to bear the wrongs of base mankind,
Such, such was I, still tost from care to care,
While in your world I drew the vital air;
Ev'n I who from the Lord of thunders rose,
Bore toils and dangers, and a weight of woes,
To a base monarch still a slave confined,
The hardest bondage to a generous mind.
Down to these worlds I trod the dismal way,
And dragg'd the three mouth'd dog to upper day.
Ev'n hell I conquer'd, thro' the friendly aid
Of Maia's offspring, and the martial maid.
Thus he, nor deigned for our reply to stay,
But turning stalked with giant strides away.

But notwithstanding this appearance and this speech, both of them suitable to the character which Hercules supported here on earth, the poet is careful to tell us that it was not Hercules himself, but his Εἴδωλον or image only, which Ulysses beheld.

Now I the strength of Hercules behold,
A towering spectre of gigantic mold,
A shadowy form! for high in heaven's abodes
Himself resides, a God among the Gods:
There in the bright assemblies of the skies,
The nectar quaffs, and Hebe crowns his joys.

There is indeed a plausible objection to these opinions, which is, that the shades of the warriors are said still to wear the same garments or armour which they were accustomed to do upon earth, as appears from the poet's saying that the latter were stained with blood. "It is difficult to conceive," says Mr. Pope in his notes on the Odyssey, "how these ghosts, which are only a subtile substance, not a gross body, should wear the same armour which the body wore in the other world. How was it conveyed to them in the infernal regions?

"All that occurs to me in answer to this objection is, that the poet describes them suitably to the characters they bore in life; the warriors on earth are warriors in hell; and that he adds these circumstances to denote the manner of their death, which was by battle and by the sword. No doubt but Homer represents a future state according to the notions his age entertained of it, and this sufficiently justifies him as a poet, who is not obliged to write severe truths, but according to fame and common opinions." I cannot here forbear to observe how closely our great poet Shakespeare has followed Homer, Virgil, and probably Euripides in all these respects.

To instance in Hamlet.

Marcellus.—Is it not like the king?

Horatio.—As thou art to thyself,
Such was the very armour he had on
When he the ambitious Norway combated
So frowned he once, when, in an angry parle,
He smote the sleaded Polack on the ice.

Again

Again, in a succeeding scene.

Horatio, addressing Hamlet.

A figure like your father,
Arm'd at all points, exactly cap-a-pee,
Appears before them, and with solemn march,
Goes slow and stately by them.

And in Macbeth, the ghost of Banquo rises with the wounds visible that had occasioned his death, nearly in the same manner as Deiphobus had appeared to Æneas in the infernal shades.

It must be premised that the murderer had just before told Macbeth of Banquo,

——— safe in a ditch he bides,
With twenty trenched gashes on his head,
The least a death to nature.

When the ghost rises, Macbeth thus addresses it.

Thou canst not say I did it, never shake
Thy goary locks at me.

To be continued.

ACCOUNTS OF, AND EXTRACTS FROM, RARE AND CURIOUS BOOKS.

"*The first Part of the Catalogue of English printed Bookes. Which concerneth scuh matters of Diuinitie as haue bin either written in our owne Tongue, or translated out of anie other language: And haue bin published, to the glory of God, and edification of the Church of Christ in England. Gathered into Alphabet, and such method as it is, by Andrew Maunsell, Bookeseller. Vnumquodque propter quid. London, Printed by John Windet for Andrew Maunsell, dwelling in Lothburie, 1595.*"

Folio, pp. 123. *dedications pp.* 6. *with the device of a pelican and its offspring rising from the flames, round which is,* "*Pro Lege, Rege et Grege. Love kepyth the Lawe, obeyeth the Kynge, and is good to the Commonwelthe.*"

We are unable to open our bibliographical department with greater propriety, than in noticing this catalogue, which is termed by the learned and laborious antiquary Hearne "a very scarce, and yet a very useful book." It will be found the first digested list of publications in the English language, and is curious on many accounts, particularly as it affords the titles of many works, and records the names of various authors long since lost and forgotten.

Of Andrew Maunsell the compiler, nothing more is now known, than that he was a bookseller of ability and eminence in Lothbury: he dedicates his labours to "The qveenes most sacred Maiestie;" to "The Reverend Diuines, and Louers of Diuine Bookes;" and to "The

"The Worshipfull the Master, Wardens, and Assistants of the Companie of Stationers, and to all other Printers and Booke-sellers in generall." As the last affords some insight into the plan of the publication, and is besides applicable to the compilation of catalogues in general, we shall transcribe a part of it.

"———— seeing (also) many singular Bookes, not only of Diuinitie, but of other excellent Arts, after the first Impression, so spent and gone, that they lie euen as it were buried in some few studies;—I haue thought good in my poor estate to vndertake this most tire-some businesse, hoping the Lord will send a blessing vpon my labours taken in my vocation; Thinking it as necessarie for the Booke-seller (considering the number and nature of them) to haue a Catalogue of our English Bookes; As the Apothecarie his Dispensatorium, or the Schoole-master his Dictionarie."

"By meanes of which my poore trauails, I shall draw to your memories Books that you could not remember; And shew to the learned such Bookes as they would not thinke were in our owne tongue; Which I haue not sleighted vp the next way, but haue to my great paines drawn the writers of any special argument together, not following the order of the learned men that haue written Latine Catalogues, Gesner, Simler, and our countriman John Bale. They make their Alphabet by the Christian name, I by the Sirname: They mingle Diuinitie, Law, Phisicke, &c. together, I set Diuinitie by itselfe: They set downe Printed and not Printed, I onely Printed.—Concerning the Books which are without Author's names called Anonymi, I haue placed them either vpon the Titles they bee entituled by, or else vpon the matter they entreate of, and sometimes vpon both, for the easier finding of them."

"Concerning the bookes that be translated, I haue observed, (if the translator doe set his name) the Author, the Matter, the Translator, the Printer, (or for whome it is Printed) the yeere and the volume: For example, Lambert Danæus, his treatise of Antichrist, translated by John Swan, Printed for John Potter and Thomas Gubbin 1589. in 4. The Author's Sirname which is Danæus; The matter of the Booke which is Antichrist; The translator's Sirname which is Swan; Are or should be in Italica letters, and none other, because they are the Alphabetical names obserued in this Booke: Turne to which of these three names you will, and they will direct you to the Booke."

"———— I shall not neede to make the like examples—they are plaine inough by one example.—

A. MAUNSELL."

One specimen from the list shall conclude this article: p. 64, letter R.

"And: Kingsmill, his comfortable treatise for all such as are any manner of way, either troubled in mind, or afflicted in bodie, also an

an exhortation to suffer afflictions patiently. A conflict had with Sathan. Prin. by the assignment of Christopher Barker 1585. in 8.

His view of man's estate, wherein the great mercie of God in man's iustification is shewed, also is annexed a godly aduise touching marriadge. Printed by Georg Bishop and Tho. Woodcocke 1588. in 8."

The second part of this very curious and valuable Catalogue shall be noticed in No. II.

Killing, no Murder.

THE famous pamphlet, entitled, "Killing, no Murder," which is said to have struck such a terror into the mind of Cromwell as to render the concluding part of his life miserable, though well known by name, has probably been seen by few present readers of the history of those times. Some brief account of it may therefore be no unacceptable article for the bibliographical department of the Athenæum.

The full title of this piece is, "Killing, no Murder: briefly discourst in Three Questions, fit for public view; to deter and prevent Single Persons and Councils from usurping Supreme Power. By William Allen." The real author, was Captain *Silas Titus*, afterwards Colonel, and celebrated for his speech in parliament in favour of excluding the Duke of York from the throne. It was first printed clandestinely in 1657, and was reprinted in 1659 with some additions. There is prefixed to it an address, "To his Highness Oliver Cromwell," in which the writer ironically displays to him the great honour he shall acquire in dying for the people, and the unspeakable consolation it will be to him in the last moments of his life, to consider "with how much benefit to the world he is likely to leave it." He also very plainly apprizes him of his own purpose by this writing, "of hastening this great good."

After some introductory matter alluding to Sindercombe's late plot against the Protector, the author opens his subject with stating three questions: "I. Whether my Lord Protector be a Tyrant or not? II. If he be, whether it is lawful to do justice upon him without solemnity, that is, to kill him. III. If it be lawful, whether it is like to prove profitable or noxious to the commonwealth?" With respect to the first question, he commences with the twofold definition of a tyrant, made by the civil law; one who governs without right, and one who rules tyrannically. He then discusses what it is which constituted a rightful sovereign, which he limits to the two titles of God's immediate command, and the people's choice. "This being considered (says he) have not the People of England much reason to ask the Protector, Who made thee a Prince and Judge over us? If God made thee, make it manifest to us. If the People, where did we meet to do it? Who took our subscriptions? To whom deputed we our authority? and when and where did those deputies make the choice?"

choice?" He goes on—"If to change the government without the people's consent: if to dissolve their representatives by force, and disannull their acts: if to give the name of the people's representatives to confederates of his own, that he may establish iniquity by a law: if to take away men's lives out of all course of law, by certain murtherers of his own appointment, whom he names a High Court of Justice: if to decimate men's estates, and by his own power to impose upon the people what he pleases; and to maintain all by force of arms; if, I say, all this does make a tyrant, his own impudence cannot deny but he is as compleat a one as ever hath been since there have been societies of men."

He then proceeds to mention a number of external and essential characters of tyranny, with a view to their application to Cromwell and his government; and having established the full title of the protector to the name of tyrant in both its senses, he takes up the second question, "Whether this be a beast of game, that we are to give law to, or a beast of prey to destroy?" He first shows by argument and authority, that a tyrant, who makes himself above all law, can be no part of a commonwealth either as a magistrate or a citizen; whence he concludes that he can claim no protection from the laws or constitution. Further, as he is too strong to be amenable to any law, he becomes above all other justice than "that he receives from the stroke of some generous hand." "And certainly (says he) the safety of mankind were ill provided for, if there were no kind of justice to reach great villains, but tyrants should be 'immanitate scelerum tuti,' secured by the greatness of their crimes.' He pursues this idea first in a train of argument, and then with the authority of examples, drawn from the Greek and Roman history, and finally from the Old Testament, in the cases of Moses, Ehud, Samson, Samuel, and Jehoiada. In that of Ehud and the Moabite, he observes that the deliverance was affected by prayers and tears, with the help of a dagger; "for believe it, a tyrant is not that kind of devil that is to be cast out by only fasting and prayer."

He next takes notice of two objections, that may be made to the tyrannicide for which he has been arguing: I. That the examples from scripture are of men inspired by God, and who therefore had an authority for their actions, which cannot now be pleaded. To this he replies, "with learned Milton," that if God commanded these things, it is a sign that they were lawful and commendable: moreover, in the cases referred to, the perpetrators did not alledge any other reason for what they did, than retaliation and the justice of the action. II. The second objection is, that the government of Cromwell being now peaceably acquiesced in, and men following under it their usual occupations, the tacit consent of the people to his sovereignty may be presumed. In answer to this he observes, that if the mere regular pursuit of their usual business were to be interpreted as the people's consent, there never could have been a tyranny of any duration; for this, doubtless, must have taken place under a Nero, a Caligula,

Caligula, or any other tyrant whose power obtained an establishment.

Respecting the third question, whether the removing of this tyrant is likely to prove of advantage to the commonwealth? he thinks it is scarcely worth enquiring whether it is better that a man should die, than that his imposthume should be lanced, or his gangrened limb cut off. Yet as some may not be of that opinion, he enters into a consideration of the evils consequent upon submission to slavery. Of these one of the chief is the degradation of the national character, which he affirms already to have been effected to a lamentable degree. On this occasion he breaks out into the following spirited invective. "Can any man think with patience upon what we have profest, when he sees what we vilely do and tamely suffer? What have we of Nobility but the name, the luxury and the vices of it? poor wretches, these that now carry that title, are so far from having any of the virtues, that they have not so much as the generous vices that attend greatness; they have lost all ambition and indignation! As for our Ministers, what have they, or, indeed, desire they of their calling but the tythes? How do these horrid prevaricators search for distinctions to piece contrary oaths? How do they rake scriptures for flatteries, and impudently apply them to his monstrous highness? What is the City but a great tame beast, that eats and carries, and cares not who rides it? What is the thing called a Parliament but a mock, composed of a people that are only suffered to sit there, because they are known to have no virtue, after the exclusion of all others that were but suspected to have any? What are they but pimps of tyranny, who are only employed to draw in the people to prostitute their liberty? What will not the Army fight for? What will they not fight against? What are they but janizaries, slaves themselves and making all others so? What are the People in general but knaves, fools and cowards, principled for ease, vice and slavery?"

For all these evils the writer finds no other cure than removing the tyrant who has occasioned them: and he goes on to answer the objections that might occur against this measure. The first is, an opinion, that it were a generous action to kill his highness in the field, but unlawful to do it privately: "As if (says he) it were not generous to apprehend a thief till his sword were drawn, and he in a posture to defend himself and kill me." A tyrant has engaged so many in his support, that to destroy him by open force must endanger the public safety: he is "a devil that tears the body in the exorcising." Another objection is, lest he should have a successor worse than himself: but surely "it is the height of folly to die of a disease, because there is hazard in the cure: to suffer a certain misery for fear of a contingent one."

Having hitherto spoken to Englishmen in general, he now addresses himself particularly to those who, with himself, "have fought for their liberties under this tyrant, and in the end, cozened by his oaths and tears, have purchased nothing but slavery with the price of their blood."

It

It is peculiarly, he says, *their* business to redress an injury which they have been the means of bringing on the nation; and it is also their interest, since they must always be the objects of his suspicion and dread. He then reverts to Sindercombe, whose attempt he applauds in lofty terms, and whose death he attributes to the secret practices of the tyrant, causing him to be *smothered in prison*. He thus concludes: "There is a great roll behind, even of those that are in his own muster roll, that are ambitious of the name of the deliverers of their country; and they know what the action is that will purchase it. His bed, his table, is not secure, and he stands in need of other guards to defend him against his own. Death and destruction pursue him whithersoever he goes; they follow him every where like his fellow-travellers, and at last they will come upon him like armed men, &c. &c." No wonder that such a denunciation affected the usurper with that apprehension of domestic treason which was manifested by the armour under his cloathes, the pistols and daggers about his person, and the haggard and suspicious looks that accompanied the last wretched years of his life! Annexed to the pamphlet is a separate address which was meant to point its sting; "To all Officers and Soldiers of the Army, that remember their engagements, and dare be honest." In this they are urged by every motive drawn from their past reputation and their present debasement, to redeem their character by destroying the tyrant whom they had set up. This, in fact, was the principal object of Cromwell's fears, and it probably would have taken place, had not a timely death saved him from such a catastrophe.

MEMOIRS OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

Historical Memoir of the life and works of M. de Villoison; by M. Dacier, perpetual secretary to the national institute, read in the public sitting of Friday, 11th of April, 1806.

Jean Baptiste Gaspard D'Ansse de Villoison, member of the institute, of the legion of honour, of the academies of Berlin, Madrid, Gottingen, and of almost all the academies and learned societies of Europe, was born at Corbeille-sur-seine, on the 5th of March, 1750. His family came originally from Spain. Michael D'Anso, the first of his family who settled in France, came thither in 1615, in the suite of Anne of Austria, in whose service he was engaged, and obtained letters of naturalization, and confirmation of his former nobility. His son John was associated with him, and succeeded him. His grandsons embraced the profession of arms. One of them, Peter, a captain of dragoons, was slain in 1703 at the battle of Hochstet; the other, John, succeeded the celebrated Marquis de l'Hôpital as captain-lieutenant, in the colonel's company of Mestre-de-Camp-general,

de-Camp-general, and was taken prisoner at the battle of Fleurus in 1690. He was the grandfather of M. de Villoison. His father, Jean Baptiste, was in his youth page of the stable to the king; he afterwards entered among the musketeers, and having reached the time requisite for obtaining the cross of St. Louis, soon after entirely quitted the service.

M. de Villoison began his studies at a very early age at the college of Lisieux, from which he removed to the college du Plessis. He distinguished himself in these two seminaries by the regularity of his application, and decided taste for the ancient languages, especially the Greek. This taste, increasing in proportion as he surrendered himself to it, became at length an exclusive passion, and he exchanged the college Du Plessis, for des Grassis, that he might attend with greater assiduity the Greek lectures there delivered by the learned M. le Beau, which attracted a great number of pupils. Formed and encouraged by such a teacher, if he still had rivals to encounter in Latin and French composition, he had none in Greek. In the competition which was annually proposed by the university, he obtained all the prizes destined to those who proved the superiority of taste in the language of Homer, with the exception of one, which he lost in succeeding too well. A French translation was required, of rather a difficult passage in some Greek author. M. de Villoison easily surmounted the difficulty, and translated the passage with the hand of a master. But the masters judged like scholars. Having taken for their guide an erroneous Latin version, the faults of which, whether through inattention or ignorance, they did not discover, and observing that the translation given by M. de Villoison differed essentially from it, they concluded that he had misunderstood the passage, and refused him the prize, which he had merited. But such a defeat was a real triumph.

The progress made by Villoison was so remarkable and rapid, that in a short time the lectures of M. le Beau, who was obliged to accommodate them to the capacities of the majority of his pupils, became useless to him, and could give him no further information. He therefore resolved to attend those of M. Capperonier, who held the office of Greek professor in the royal college of France with great reputation, whose lectures, more profound, and adapted to a more advanced state of proficiency, soon enabled him to make such progress, as to need no other instructor than his own study.

M. de Villoison had now reached that degree of knowledge, which many studious men would esteem themselves happy in having attained in the middle of their career; yet he had scarcely arrived at the age of fifteen years. At that early period he had perused almost all the writers of antiquity, poets, orators, historians, philosophers, and grammarians. To say that he had read them, is to say that their contents were deeply impressed in his memory, with their commentaries, glosses and scholia. His memory, at the same time ready and tenacious, retained without difficulty whatever he confided to it; and the impressions once received, were never to be effaced.

Endowed with this faculty, the value of which is inestimable to those who are engaged in the acquisition of knowledge, and which received continual improvement from the incessant exercise which his imperious desire of learning imposed upon it, it is not surprizing that while still a youth, he was ranked among the most skilful Greek scholars of Europe.

In this important branch of literature, which is at present perhaps too little valued (I mean the profound knowledge of the most beautiful language which has ever been spoken by men, and in which many works of first-rate merit have been transmitted us) the first rank is due to those learned critics, who multiply copies, who purify them from the stain with which time and ignorance have disfigured them, who explain their difficulties, and facilitate the use of them to others. M. de Villoison, from the entrance of his career, was ambitious of these first honours. Having familiarized himself with printed works, and appropriated their treasures, he sought new stores in manuscripts. He found in the library of St. Germain-des pres, a collection of inedited Greek lexica, among which that of Homer by Apollonius, seized and fixed his attention. He formed the project of publishing it, which he executed in 1773. The work was preceded by ample prolegomena, and accompanied by a multitude of notes and observations, the extensive and profound erudition of which, extremely rare even in laborious men who have grown old in study, appears like a prodigy in a young man, at the age of twenty-two.

This remarkable attainment announced a worthy successor of Casaubon, Salmasius, and those learned and indefatigable critics, whose labours, knowledge, and sagacity have, so to speak, restored life to the great writers of antiquity, and to antiquity itself. The academy of inscriptions and belles letters, to which the editor submitted his work before it was printed, had testified their applause with a sort of enthusiasm, and had with eagerness admitted him as a member, during the preceding year, after having solicited and obtained in his behalf a dispensation of age, without which he could not be elected. The reason assigned is extremely honourable to him; "that having anticipated the age of profound knowledge, it was just that he should enjoy its advantages earlier than other men; and that he should outstrip them in the career of honours, as he had in that of learning."

This distinction, which stands singly in the annals of the academy, was universally approved. All the journals were full of the praises of the young academician, and the flattering hopes which his first production inspired. His brilliant success kindled new ardour in his mind. He redoubled his efforts to maintain and augment the premature honours with which his first literary achievement had been crowned, and he neglected nothing which could contribute to this object. To the slow, difficult and doubtful method of publishing works of considerable extent, he joined the more ready, expeditious, and certain plan of epistolary correspondence. He connected himself with the greater part of his learned contemporaries, both French and foreigners. He submitted to them difficulties which struck him, and which did not appear

pear to him to have been before considered. He added his own solutions. He communicated interesting observations, relative to works in which he knew his correspondents to be engaged, and when those works were published, gratitude required the mention of his name with just applause; his letters were published in journals: learned societies vied with each other in associating him to their members; his celebrity rapidly diffused itself: his opinion acquired fresh weight every day, and soon became an important authority in all that concerned the Greek language.

It is proper to remark that this correspondence, by which he perhaps served literature as effectually as by his published works, and which would have consumed almost all the time of a man of learning, with a memory less faithful, never diverted him from his ordinary studies. He bestowed on it only the time which would have been otherwise destined to his leisure or repose, and if on the one hand he lavished his riches with profusion, he sought on the other, to replace the expense with usury, that future demands might be answered, and the store from which they were supplied, remain unexhausted. It may easily be conceived, that with this readiness of communication, he was not deficient in contributions to the academy which had adopted him; but he soon perceived that it was necessary to employ his treasures with order and a sort of economy, in order to obtain its applause; and that this society, composed of men of great learning in different branches, would attach only that value to erudition, which it should merit by its utility, reserving its principal esteem for the uses to which it may be directed by taste and judgment. This discovery abated by degrees the academic ardour of M. de Villoison, whose turn of mind, and sentiments in matters of erudition, did not perfectly accord with the principles of the academy. After having read some memoirs, which did not obtain all the marks of approbation which he expected, and finding that they were stripped of a part of the learned pomp with which his memory had invested them, and were dismissed to appear under a modest form, by extracts, in the literary history, he suffered several years to elapse without any further communication, and employed his time in preparing an edition of the pastoral of Longus, which Amyot has rendered so happily into our language, with all the simplicity and native graces which we admire in the original.

M. de Villoison poured out his erudition in torrents in this wonderful work. Not content with furnishing such notes as were necessary for the elucidation of the text, he collected a multitude of passages from more ancient Greek authors, which Longus appeared to him to have imitated in turn of phraseology or in particular expressions, and which he placed in comparison with correspondent passages of that author. This labour produced such a mass of observations, all indicating profound philological knowledge, that Longus, adapted to be a little book for the pocket, would have formed an enormous volume for the shelves of a library, had not one of the colleagues of M. de Villoison, who loved both Longus and the editor, and whom the academy had

had deputed to examine the work, before it should be committed to the press, prevailed on him to retrench half of his remarks. Perhaps half of the remainder might have been spared, without any injury to Longus, and without diminishing the merit of the edition. It was however received with sufficient favour when it appeared in 1778, and no fault could be found with any thing but its superfluity of erudition, a charge which did no injury to that species of reputation of which M. de Villoison was ambitious. He was not however fully satisfied with its success, and thought with reason that he should labour more carefully for the cause of letters, and his own fame, if he could discover and publish some valuable work, not before given to the world. He had examined the libraries of France for this purpose ineffectually, and he formed the project of going to Venice, to search the library of St. Mark, to which he knew that Cardinal Bessarion, one of the first Greeks who rekindled in the West the torch of letters, had left his numerous manuscripts. He set out in 1781, under the patronage of the king, who appointed that the expences of his journey and residence (to which no limits were fixed) should be defrayed by the government.

The researches of M. de Villoison were not fruitless. He soon discovered several inedited works of the rhetoricians and philosophers, and especially grammarians, which he deemed worthy of publication. He immediately resolved to publish some of these pieces, either entire, or in extracts, and formed the collection which was printed the same year, in two volumes in 4to, under the title of "Anecdota Græca." The first of these volumes contains the Ionia, a miscellany compiled by the empress Eudoxia, who professed a warm admiration for philosophy and letters, to which she owed her elevation; whose father, from whom she received her education, was a philosopher; and who nevertheless usurped the throne from her own children, and was herself precipitated from it by her avarice. Seduced without doubt by the literary reputation of this princess, by the beauty of the manuscript, which is now deposited in the imperial library, and by the praises bestowed on the Ionia by writers, who perhaps had never read it, M. de Villoison neglected to consult his memory, and discovered too late that this vaunted work contained very little which had not been transmitted to us by more ancient compilers, and could add but little to the knowledge previously possessed. To recompense his learned readers, he gave in the second volume some opuscula of Jamblichus, Porphyry, Procopius of Gaza, Choricius, Diomede, Herodian the grammarian, &c. and many ancient scholia, passages and fragments, which had not been before collected, together with many bibliographical, grammatical, and palæographical notes, which add great value to the publication.

This part of his work will long merit consultation. It might even have been perused with some degree of interest, if the author had bestowed as much pains on the choice and disposition of his materials, as on the research and collection. We may however reasonably attribute some part of the imperfections which are to be discovered in this

this work of M. de V.'s, to the employment furnished by a discovery of greatly superior importance, which he made while engaged in the Anecdota. He found in the library of St. Mark, a manuscript of Homer, which he judged to be of the 10th century, and consequently anterior by two centuries to the commentator Eustathius, and which may have been transcribed from a manuscript much more ancient. This precious volume, which does not appear to have been before examined, contained the whole Iliad, accompanied by a great number of scholia, the whole of which he would gladly have perused in the same moment. But what struck him at first view most powerfully, was the observation of the margins, filled with asterisks, obelisks, and the various marks employed by the ancient grammarians to distinguish the verses of Homer, which they judged to be supposititious, corrupted, or transposed, and those whose genuineness was universally recognised. He found that these different signs were the result, not only of the observations of the most able writers, but of a comparison of the ancient copies of Homer, published at Massilia, Chios, Cyprus, Crete, Sinope, and Argos, and of which the more valuable were indicated in the margin of the manuscript. He experienced fresh satisfaction when he perceived that the scholia were an abridgment of those of Zenodotus, Aristophanes, Aristarchus, Cretes, Mallotes, Ptolemy of Ascalon, and several other celebrated grammarians, who had consecrated their labours to the purification of the text of Homer; that they presented the most compleat and interesting critical history of that text which has descended to us; that they contained citations from a considerable number of works now lost; and furnished many elucidations, relative usages, manners, mythology, and geography, though grammatical questions were their principal subject. He hastened to announce his discovery to the learned part of Europe, and succeeded in communicating even to the coolest minds, a portion of the enthusiasm by which he was seized. The hopes which he excited, were not disappointed. They were fully justified by the publication of the work, which appeared in 1788, accompanied by learned prolegomena, consisting of observations often new and curious, and in almost every instance necessary to his subject, and in which his various and profound erudition leaves no obscurity without elucidation, and difficulty without solution.

This precious edition of the Iliad, the place of which no preceding edition can supply, and which is to be regarded as one of the most valuable presents made by erudition to literature during the last century, assures to M. de Villoison a never-failing title to its gratitude. Accordingly the learned of all countries vied with each other in their applauses, and no discordant voice troubled the unanimous concert of praise, as flattering as it was merited. The satisfaction which this brilliant success must have given to M. de V. was not however long unmixed. He could not see without sentiments of pain the spirit of system abusing his discoveries to attack the glory of the father of poetry; and perverting the critical marks affixed to a great number of verse in the Iliad, in support of the daring position, that parts of this

this poem, even entire books, were the work of ancient rhapsodists, and the first editors; and that the Iliad and Odyssey, consisting of nearly 30,000 verses, had descended to posterity by means of oral tradition, and were not committed to writing till several centuries after the age of Homer. M. de Villoison could not hear with patience of these bold and absurd systems; and the idea that he had unintentionally furnished the basis on which they were constructed, and the weapons by which their authors pretended to defend them, troubled him so much, that he almost repented of having published his work. More than once he was tempted to combat this literary impiety, but was restrained by the fear of giving it greater importance, and of propagating it by endeavouring to crush it; and he justly thought it better to leave the care of Homer's fame to the admiration of past and future ages.

M. de Villoison had advanced but a little way in printing the Iliad, when he yielded to the invitation of the duke and duchess of Saxe-Weimar, who honoured him with their particular esteem, and quitting Venice, repaired to their capital. On his arrival at Weimar, he could think of no better way of paying his court to his illustrious patrons than by forming a collection of various readings and emendations of the text of several Greek authors, in the form of letters, addressed to various celebrated persons. It was natural that the work of a learned Greek scholar should appear under the auspices of a prince who had testified so much esteem for him; but it occasioned some surprize, to see a Frenchman in the 18th century, as a flattering mark of homage, address a young princess, who did not pique herself on the knowledge of Latin, and still less of Greek, in a long Latin epistle, full of quotations, and critical disquisitions, devoted entirely to an examination of the Dionysiacs of Nonnus, and no less foreign to her in its object than its language. This collection was printed at Zurich in 1783, under the title of Epistolæ Vimarienses.

To the study of the profane writers, M. de Villoison had joined at intervals that of the sacred books. He had learned Hebrew, and was acquainted with all the writings extant in the language of Moses. Having found in the library of St. Mark a very liberal translation of part of the old testament, made by a Jew in the ninth century, he laboured during his stay at Weimar, to put it into a state fit for publication, and on his return to France in 1784, he remained some time at Strasburg for the purpose of having it printed there under his own inspection. The notes which he added, are commonly short, substantial, and useful; and the preface is at once learned, judicious, instructive, and confined within proper bounds. At the end of this preface he announces his approaching departure for Greece, the tour of which the government had just authorized him to make. Scarcely indeed had he reached Paris, when he had the resolution to snatch himself a second time from the arms of a young, interesting, and virtuous woman (Madlle. Caroline de Newkart) whom he had married a little

little time before his journey to Venice, to traverse those celebrated countries which barbarism has rendered desert, but which, after so many ages of ravage and destruction, the friends of antiquity and the arts still visit with a sort of religious respect, to admire their ruins, to revive interesting recollections of their history, and to obtain important lessons of instruction.

The principal object which M. de Villoison proposed in this enterprize, was to search the monasteries for works, or fragments of works of ancient authors, hitherto unknown. He flattered himself particularly with the hope of finding the extracts, made by the direction of the emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus, and of being equally fortunate with the illustrious Peirscius, who in the 17th century, obtained two books of this collection, out of fifty of which it consisted, and of which it appears that several others were extant at that period. But M. de Villoison had not sufficiently reflected on the losses which ignorance aud barbarism can produce in a single day, and much more in the space of two centuries. He was also animated by the hope of discovering ancient inscriptions, neglected or overlooked by preceding travellers; and by the desire of gaining a familiar knowledge of the idiom of the modern Greeks, the study of which cannot be entirely useless to the philologist, who wishes to collect even the least fragments of the language of Homer, and of gaining an acquaintance with their manners and customs, which may often contribute to the perfect understanding of the ancient authors, because a people, in a great variety of views, always continues to resemble itself, notwithstanding the lapse of time, the influence of revolutions, and the change of civil and political institutions.

Never was an enterprize undertaken with more flattering auspices. M. de Villoison departed with the ambassador of France to the Ottoman Porte: that ambassador was M. de Choiseul Gouffier, his colleague in the academy of Belles lettres, who was returning invested with a dignified public character into the same countries which he had before traversed as a scholar and antiquary, and where he had collected the valuable materials of that splendid work, of which he has published the first volume, and the continuation of which has been too long denied to the wishes of the public. M. de Villoison arrived at Constantinople in 1785. He was soon satisfied with the view of a country and city, which offers indeed the most beautiful situation that the world can furnish, but presented little relative to the object of his journey. After a short residence there, he set out for Smyrna, under the protection of firmans from the grand signor, addressed to the Turkish commandants, and letters of recommendation from M. de Choiseul Gouffier to the French consuls in all parts of Asia minor and Greece, where he might chuse to land. From Smyrna he repaired to Naxos, whence he made excursions to other islands of the Archipelago, to examine their ruins, to discover ancient manuscripts, and search the libraries of the monasteries. Those of the convents of Pathmos, Amorgos, and Metelin, particularly attracted his attention, as, from their superior consequence, presenting greater hopes of making

ing some useful discovery; but his examination having proved fruitless, and having no farther object in the Archipelago, he embarked for Mount Athos, where the numerous monasteries, he was persuaded, would recompense him for the barrenness of those which he had hitherto visited. He experienced a hospitable reception from the different religious houses to which the territory of the mountain belongs, which, being independent on each other, form a kind of federative republic, from which every thing female is rigorously excluded, and to which may be applied the words which Pliny uses respecting the Theraputæ, "Gens æterna in quâ nemo nascitur." The libraries of all the monasteries were open to him, and he visited them with great attention; but whether, as some persons have thought, he wanted the caution and address necessary to gain the confidence of these recluses, who never see without some uneasiness a professor of the Latin rite within their limits, or whether they in reality possessed nothing more than works of ascetic morality and theology, M. de Villoison found nothing more important, and after having employed about a month in the laborious and fruitless research, he proceeded to Salonica, from which place he took this departure for Athens.

We may readily conceive the various sentiments which must have arisen in his mind, when he first beheld the majestic but lamentable ruins, which testify the former residence of the arts in this their native seat, the destruction of which, the love of those very arts, entering into rivalship with time and barbarisms, is labouring to complete, for the purpose of appropriating their valuable relics. What thoughts and feelings must he have experienced, while traversing the celebrated field of Marathon, the plain of Rharium, regarded with religious respect by the initiated into the mysteries of Ceres, mounts Hymettus and Pentelicus, and the banks of the Cephissus; while contemplating the ruins of Corinth and Argos, or exploring the vicinity of Sparta, where only a few slight traces are left to point out the site of that city, which occupies so considerable a space in history. M. de Villoison consoled himself for his disappointment, in not meeting with any of the principal objects of his search, by discovering among the Traconians who inhabit that country, and are the descendants of the ancient Spartans, the remains of the Doric language, which is spoken at this day in considerable purity. He intended to visit the Manictæ, who lay claim to the same origin; but the knowledge which he possessed of their savage and inhospitable manners, confirmed by information in Laconia, prevented him from exposing himself to dangers from which little advantage could be derived, and his only care was now to return to his native country, and to impart to Europe the valuable observations which were the result of his journey.

On his return to Paris in 1787, he read to the academy of belles lettres, a memoir, in which he gave a summary account of his rout, his labours and discoveries, particularly proposing to publish and explain various inscriptions, which had escaped the diligence of preceding

ceding travellers, or which they had misunderstood or transcribed incorrectly, charges which M. de Villoison applies to all his predecessors, with the exception of Chishull and Chandler; and certainly no person was better qualified than he, by the extent and accuracy of his grammatical and palæographical knowledge, to detect and rectify their errors. This memoir, which is almost entirely appropriated to the subject of inscriptions, was to have been followed by a series of others in which he intended to communicate all the information which he had been able to collect, respecting the history, geography, public edifices, temples, altars, gymnasia, theatres, baths, tombs, navigation, commerce, institutions, civil and religious ceremonies, manners, usages, costume, dances, games, and festivals, of the ancient Greeks, and their words, phrases, and proverbs, many of which remain in use, particularly among the inhabitants of the islands. M. de Villoison, in announcing this vast plan, which embraced the whole state of ancient, compared with that of modern Greece, stated that the work independently of the general interest which it might possess, would have the particular merit of throwing great light on more than six hundred passages of ancient authors, which cannot be understood without a knowledge of the country, and the manners of the present inhabitants. But that nothing might be omitted in this work, and that its accuracy might be as great as possible, M. de Villoison wished, before it should be offered to the public, to peruse afresh with the most scrupulous attention, all the Greek and Latin authors extant, from the first to the last line, "a capite ad calcem," præf. in Hom. p. 54.

This immense enterprise would have dismayed a less intrepid scholar, but the contemplation of it did not affect M. de Villoison with even a sentiment of surprize. He was going to revisit his former friends, nor could he employ his time in a manner more agreeable to him. The revolution, which has overturned so many other schemes, came, on the contrary, in aid of his, which in spite of himself was liable to perpetual interruption from the various duties which he had to fulfil, and the numberless avocations incident to every one in a great city, with which he has many connexions. The wish of removing to a distance from the focus of the tempest, and the necessity of consulting his personal safety, determined him to remove to Orleans, where he hoped that he might live, tranquil and unknown, and give himself wholly up to the pursuit of his labours. Shutting himself up from break of day till night, in the public library of that place, (which consists in part of the books of two celebrated scholars, Henry and Adrian de Valois, men whose memory he greatly respected) with his pen constantly in his hand, he first atchieved the perusal of the writers of antiquity, thence he descended to those of the middle ages, and even of times still nearer our own, and put them in like manner under contribution. He neglected neither the acts of councils, nor the fathers of the church, nor the collections of laws, nor even the commentaries of the jurisconsults; and to give an idea of his indefatigable perseverance, it will be sufficient to say, that he read four

times over, from beginning to end, the voluminous collection of Byzantine history.

The fruits of this prodigious reading were fifteen enormous volumes in 4to. of extracts and observations, the substance of which was to enter into the relation of his journey, that no void space might be left in the picture which it was his intention to draw of the state of Greece from the most remote times, till the period of its complete degradation; and even to our own days; and his preparatory labour had been conducted with so much care, that he entertained a confidence of not having omitted any important fact, any custom, any word worthy of remark, the name of any city, any man celebrated by his own qualifications, or the office which he held, nor even the names of bishops, known by nothing more than their subscription to the acts of some council. The fragment which he annexed to the journey of the Troad, by M. Chevalier, some essays scattered in different periodical works, and the memoirs which he communicated to the institute, of which he was elected a member in the year 9, scarcely permit us to doubt the truth of this assertion. He was occupied also during his retreat at Orleans, in preparing a new edition of the Palæographia Græca of father Montfaucon, which he had for a long time entertained the design of republishing, with many additions and corrections, and considerable supplements, a very difficult task, which he was perhaps the only man in France capable of executing in its proper extent.*

In this long course of incessant study, he obtained an accumulation of antiquarian knowledge, with which he was absolutely delighted. It was diverting to hear him boast of men and events as worthy of record, which had till then been buried in the most profound obscurity. He considered it as a species of conquest which he had won from annihilation, and he was more flattered by it, than he could have been, if he had resolved difficulties which had before eluded the learning and sagacity of the most able critics.

After the last storms of the revolution, he returned to Paris with his treasure, which indeed was almost his only remaining property. Three fourths of his moderate fortune had been consumed, and to make up the deficiency, he determined to open a public course of lectures on the Greek language. Young persons, and men of mature age, Frenchmen and foreigners, desirous of gaining knowledge, and attracted by the celebrity of the teacher, were eager to attend his lectures; but as M. de Villoison did not possess the habit of instruction, it was impossible for him to descend to the level of his pupils, and they—like the young eagle, who cannot follow his parent's summons into the fields of air, when he darts his course towards the sun—could not ascend to him; they therefore soon renounced their attendance on lectures, too learned for their apprehension, and from which they could consequently derive little advantages. Fortunately for M. de Villoison,

* All the manuscripts left by M. de Villoison are now deposited in the imperial library, where they may at any time be consulted.

Villoison, the government had just appointed a professorship of modern Greek, in the special school of oriental languages, established at the imperial library, and it was allotted to him, as soon as he made known his desire of obtaining it. He fulfilled the functions of it, till the moment of its suppression by the emperor, who, to give to M. de Villoison a proof of that esteem with which he honours all persons of merit, created in his behalf, and by a singular distinction, for him alone, a professorship of ancient and modern Greek in the college of France.

Worthy of succeeding Danes, Turnebe, Lambin, Cotelier, and other scholars, who have given celebrity to this establishment, M. de Villoison at length occupied a place to which he had long been called by the public opinion, in which he might enjoy those treasures of knowledge which he had collected, and admit others to the participation of them, by means of oral instruction and publication. He was likely to be attended by pupils, possessed of sufficient information to understand him, and already capable, for the most part, of becoming teachers themselves; he was aiming to revive and disseminate a taste for that beautiful language, the love of which had been the ruling passion of his life; in fine, he had the prospect of being happy, in the true happiness of a man of letters, that of being useful to others by giving them instruction. Deceitful hope! It was only given him to see from far the promised land; he was not permitted to enter it. A malady which at first he regarded as very slight, but the force of which was aggravated by degrees, brought him to the tomb, after languishing some months, 6 Floreal, year 13, 26th April, 1805.

Erudition has lost in him one of its ablest champions; the Institute, one of its most celebrated members, and one most capable of contributing to its fame. No person perhaps ever possessed more learning; he was thoroughly acquainted with the Greek tongue; he knew every work written in that language, or respecting it; he had marked all the changes which it experienced in the twenty-four centuries during which it continued in use, and all the different acceptations in which its terms have been employed by different authors, from Homer to Chalcondyles. No grammatical difficulty could embarrass him. His head resembled an immense dictionary, in comparison with which the Thesaurus of Henri Etienne would appear a meagre and imperfect abridgment.

If he had been less skilled in Greek, we should have remarked that he was an excellent Latin scholar, that all the great writers of Rome were familiar to him, that he wrote their language with facility and correctness, and that he composed on different subjects a great number of Latin verses, which are about as good as those of the majority of modern Latin poets. He was not less versed in Italian literature; he was acquainted with all the works of taste and erudition extant in all that language, and he spoke and wrote it, if not with elegance, at least with purity. It would be an error to suppose that French literature was entirely unknown to him.

Though he had never made it a particular subject of study, yet there are no good works in our language, whether in verse or prose, which were unknown to him. He was always ready to answer questions proposed to him. He often indeed went further, and supported the opinion which he advanced by a multitude of authorities and quotations, which astonished as much as instructed his hearers. Nature had gifted him with a quick and penetrating mind, but his memory, which was in truth a prodigy, and which he had perhaps exercised too exclusively, appears in some degree to have checked the developement of his other intellectual faculties, and to have prevented them from reaching their perfect growth. Insatiably desirous of knowledge, he had never too much time for reading, and he rarely appropriated any to thought and reflection; hence the incoherence, the sudden digressions, the want of proportion and integrity which are to be remarked in some of his works; hence the want of consistency and steadiness in conduct and conversation of which he sometimes incurred the charge. But these imperfections, or, if you will, these faults, disappear before the splendour of his great and useful qualities: if he always remained young in judgment, taste, and sense of propriety, in erudition he condensed the acquisitions of centuries, with all the vigour of the manly age; and learned societies might esteem themselves happy, if they possessed many members, possessed of similar excellence, though mingled with similar alloy.

D.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

THE MOLEHILL.

TELL me, thou Dust beneath my feet,
Thou Dust, that once hadst breath;
Tell me, how many mortals meet
In this small hill of death.

The Mole, that digs with curious toil
Her subterranean bed,
Thinks not she ploughs a human soil;
And delves among the dead.

Yet ah! where'er she turns the ground,
Their ashes still I see,
For every atom of this mound
Was once alive, like me.

Like me, those elder-born of clay
Awhile enjoy'd the light;
They labour'd thro' their little day,
And went to rest at night.

My

My night is coming on apace,
And soon, as seasons roll,
My dust, like theirs, shall mark the place
That hides the mining Mole.

Far in the regions of the morn,
The rising sun surveys
Palmyra's palaces forlorn,
Unveiling in his rays.

The Spirits of the desert dwell,
Where eastern grandeur shone;
And vultures scream, hyænas yell,
Where Beauty held her throne.

In wild magnificent decay
The palsied fabrics frown,
For storms have rent their strength away,
Till breezes rock them down.

There oft the pilgrim, as he stands,
Sees, from the broken wall,
The shadow tottering on the sands,
Ere the loose fragment fall.

Destruction joys, amid those scenes,
To watch the sport of Fate,
While Time between the pillars leans
And bows them with his weight.

But towers and temples, crush'd by time,
Stupendous wrecks! appear
To me less mournfully sublime,
Than the poor Molehill here.

Thro' all this hillock's crumbling mould,
Once the warm life-blood ran:
—Man! thy own ruins here behold!
Behold *thy* ruins, Man!

Methinks the dust yet heaves with breath;
I feel the pulses beat:
O in this little hill of death,
How many mortals meet!

By wafting winds, and flooding rains,
From ocean, earth, and sky,
Collected here, the frail remains
Of slumbering millions lie.

O that the Muse's eye might trace
Each atom's former state,
Or pierce the Spirit's hiding place,
To scan its future fate!

Ah me!—the light of heaven decays,
And thro' the closing night,
The visions of departed days
Gleam on my opening sight.

All ages, and all nations, rise;
For every grain of earth,
Beneath my feet, before mine eyes,
Is startled into birth.

Where late the humble Molehill stood,
A mighty army stands,
From years beyond and since the flood,
From nigh and stranger-lands.

Like rising mists, the shadowy forms
O'er the deep valley spread,
And like descending clouds, in storms,
Lour round the mountain's head.

O'er the wide champaign as they pass,
Their footsteps yield no sound,
Nor shake from the light trembling grass
A dew-drop to the ground.

Among their undistinguish'd hosts,
With transport, I behold
Awful, sublime, terrific ghosts,
—Heroes and kings of old:—

Tyrants, the comets of mankind,
Whose blighting influence ran
Thro' all the Eden of the mind,
And smote, and mildew'd man:—

Sages, the Pleiades of earth,
Whose genial aspects smiled,
And flowers and fruitage sprang to birth
O'er all the human wild.

Yon gloomy ruffian, gash'd and gor'd,
Was he, whose care and skill
First beat the ploughshare to a sword,
And taught the *art* to kill.

Behind him skulks a shade, bereft
Of fondly-worshipt fame:
He built the Pyramids,—yet left
No stone to tell his name!

But who is he, with visage dark
As tempests when they roar?
—The first who push'd his daring bark
Beyond the coward shore.

Thro'

Thro' storms of death, and seas of graves,
He steer'd with steadfast eye;
His path was on the desert waves,
His compass in the sky.

That Youth, who lifts his graceful hand,
First smote the marble block,
And Beauty leap'd, at his command,
A Venus from the rock.

Trembling with ecstacy of thought,
Behold the Grecian maid,
Whom love's enchanting impulse taught
To trace a slumberer's shade.

Sweet are the thefts of love;—she stole
His image while he lay,
Kindled the shadow to a soul,
And breathed that soul thro' clay.*

Yon list'ning nymph, who looks behind,
With countenance of fire,
Heard midnight music in the wind,
And framed th' Aeolian lyre.

All hail!—the Sire of Song appears,
The Muse's eldest born,
The Sky-lark in the dawn of years,
The Poet of the morn.

He from the depth of cavern'd woods,
That echoed to his voice,
Bade mountains, vallies, rocks, and floods,
And heaven and earth, rejoice.

Charm'd into meekness, while he sung,
The wild beasts round him ran;
But O the triumph of his tongue!
—It tamed the heart of man.

Dim thro' the midst of twilight times,
The ghost of Cyrus walks;
And yonder, red with glorious crimes,
Stern Alexander stalks.

Here Hannibal, in all the pride
Of scowling hatred lours;
There Cæsar,—Brutus at his side,—
In fiery grandeur towers.

With

* The daughter of a potter at Corinth pencilled out the shade of her lover on the wall, by candle-light, while he slept, which her father filled up with clay, and baked the image in his furnace; thus producing the first rude portrait of a human face.

With moon-light softness, Helen's charms
Break thro' the spectred gloom;
The Cynosure of Greece in arms,
That blaz'd o'er Ilion's tomb.

But Homer,—see the bard arise!
And hark! he strikes the lyre,
The Dardan warriors lift their eyes,
The Grecian chiefs respire.

And while his music rolls along,
The towers of Troy sublime,
Rais'd by the magic breath of song,
Mock the destroyer, Time.

For still around th' eternal walls
The storms of battle rage,
And Hector conquers, Hector falls,
Bewept in every age.

Genius of Homer, were it mine
To track thy fiery car,
And in thy sunset course to shine
A radiant ev'ning star;

What theme, what laurel, might the Muse
Reclaim from ages fled?
What realm-restoring Hero chuse
To summon from the dead?

Yonder his shadow flits away:
—Thou shalt not yet depart;
Stay, thou transcendent Spirit! stay,
And tell me who thou art.

—'Tis ALFRED!—In the rolls of fame,
And on a midnight page,
Blazes his broad refulgent name,
The watch-light of his age!

A Danish winter, from the north,
Howl'd o'er the British wild;
But Alfred, like the spring, brake forth,
And all the desert smiled.

Back to the deep he roll'd the waves
By mad Invasion hurl'd;
His voice was Liberty to slaves!
Defiance to the world!

And still that voice, o'er land and sea,
Shall Albion's foes appall;
The race of Alfred *will* be free:
—Hear it,—and tremble,—Gaul!

But

But lo! the phantoms fade in flight,
  Like fears that cross the mind,
Like drowning seaman's shrieks, by night,
  That faint along the wind.

They were,—they are not,—all is past:
  —Tell me,—but who can tell
In what mysterious regions cast,
  Immortal spirits dwell?

I know not,—but I soon shall know,
  When life and suffering cease;
When this desponding heart lies low,
  And I shall rest in peace.

For see,—on death's bewildering wave,
  The rainbow, HOPE, arise;
—A bridge of glory o'er the grave,
  That bends beyond the skies.

From earth to heaven it swells, and shines
  A pledge of bliss to man,—
Time with eternity combines,
  And grasps them in a span.

Sheffield, May 2, 1806.

RETROSPECT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN 1806.

THE events of the year which has just terminated, are in general a continuation of that progress of successful ambition, which has so long thrown Europe into a revolutionary state, and overwhelmed it with disasters and changes of which no limit or conclusion can as yet be foreseen.

The treaty of Presburg between France and Austria, signed at the close of 1805, had left the French emperor and his allies triumphant in the south of Germany and the north of Italy, and dissolved the grand confederacy which had worn so formidable an aspect. The emperor of Russia returned to his own country, not pacified, but disabled from further action; and the British troops which had been landed in the north of Germany were glad to re-embark unmolested. The gloom with which the new year opened upon Great Britain was augmented in the general opinion by the illness of Mr. Pitt, which terminated in his death on January 23d. This event was followed by the formation of a new ministry, composed of a part of those who had been in office previously to Mr. Addington's administration, and the leaders of the old opposition, headed by Mr. Fox. The union of talents which were now

called into exertion, inspired hopes of either a more efficacious prosecution of the war, or of well-conducted negotiations for peace.

The beginning of the year was signalized by an important success to the British arms in the capture of the settlement of the Cape of Good Hope by Sir Home Popham and Gen. Baird.

In the month of February the French emperor put in execution his threats against the king of Naples, by an invasion of the Neapolitan territory, of which no part resisted his arms except the citadel of Gaeta, and the remote districts of Calabria. The king retired to Sicily under the protection of a British force. His Neapolitan crown was transferred by the victor to Joseph Bonaparte, who took quiet possession of the capital.

In the same month a brilliant naval action took place in the West Indies, where Adm. Duckworth captured three French ships of the line, and destroyed two, off St. Domingo.

In March, the budget was brought forward, and a heavy loan of 18 millions for Great Britain and two millions for Ireland, was negotiated upon favourable terms for the public. Among other modes of raising the supplies, the Property tax was augmented to ten per cent.

The occupation of Hanover in his own name by the king of Prussia, and the exclusion of British shipping from his ports on the German ocean, were regarded as acts of hostility which justified the recal of the English minister from Berlin, and the detention of all Prussian ships. Sweden was at the same time at variance with Prussia, and acted as an ally of Great Britain; whilst Prussia seemed entirely devoted to the interests of France.

During this session of parliament Mr. Windham brought in his bill for the regulation of the land-forces, of which the leading features were, altering the term of enlistment into the regulars from an unlimited to a limited period, and putting the volunteers upon the footing of serving without pay. This discouragement, and the diminished fears of invasion, naturally affected the spirit of volunteering, which lay nearly dormant during the course of this year.

An expedition of the revolutionary general Miranda against the Spanish dominions of South America, began to excite considerable interest early in this year. It was undertaken from North America, without any participation of the United States; and was at first but dubiously encouraged by the British commanders in the West Indies. Its operations hitherto have been unprosperous; and the hope of final success appears to have been nearly abandoned.

Among domestic events, the impeachment of Lord Melville by the House of Commons, and his acquittal by the Lords of all the charges brought against him, were topics of public conversation during the earlier part of this year.

The Cape of Good Hope had not been long in the British possession before its enterprising conquerors planned an expedition against the Spanish settlement of Buenos Ayres. Sir Home Popham and Gen. Beresford arrived in the river de la Plata in June, and after a defeat of the Spanish troops in the beginning of July, the town was surrendered. Its

port

port was immediately opened for the reception of British merchandise, and the demand has given activity to several branches of manufacture which were before in a languid state.

The constitution which had been imposed on Holland under the dictatorial influence of France not fully answering the purposes of that court, it was changed in June to a kind of mixed monarchy, of which Louis Bonaparte was proclaimed the head, with the hitherto unknown title in the annals of Europe, of *King of Holland*. Thus Napoleon, in one half-year, almost without a contest, raised two of his brothers to the throne!

In July a signal triumph accrued to the British army in Calabria under the command of General Stuart, by a victory over the French commanded by General Regnier, at Maida, near the gulf of St. Euphemia. British valour has seldom been more conspicuously displayed; but independently of the glory of such a display, the consequences were of little advantage. It operated, indeed, to the injury of the Calabrese, who were excited by it to an insurrection against the French dominion, in which the English force was insufficient to give them effectual aid. The British troops have since been withdrawn to Sicily, with the exception of the garrisons of two or three fortresses, and the country has been abandoned to an enraged enemy.

The French court, apparently desirous of a peace with the only remaining foe which defied its power, had made various overtures to a treaty with Great Britain on the basis of actual possession, which were thought by the ministry so far worthy of attention, that Lord Lauderdale was sent to Paris in July as a negotiator. A separate peace between France and Russia, signed by the plenipotentiary of that power, d'Oubril, was the first untoward circumstance which obstructed the negotiation. It was followed by incidents in Germany that eventually changed the whole face of affairs.

Ever since the humiliation of the house of Austria, the French emperor had projected such a complete predominancy in Germany as should prevent any future resistance to his ambitious schemes from that quarter. He had on various pretexts kept a large body of troops in that country, the purpose of which was to enforce an acquiescence in a grand innovation on the constitution of the empire. A confederation of the Rhine, comprising the new kings of Bavaria and Wirtemburg, with several neighbouring petty sovereigns, under the protection of France, was announced in August, and at the same time Napoleon's minister at the diet openly declared that his master no longer recognized the existence of a German empire or its head. The Austrian emperor was humbled enough to submit to this annihilation of his dignity, and to renounce his authority over the former Germanic body. Prussia, however, felt this as a stroke directly levelled at its political influence, and endeavoured to counteract it by a northern confederacy. The king was forced by a strong war-party from his yielding and temporizing system, and began to make warlike preparations. A change in the Russian ministry about the same time produced a refusal to ratify the treaty signed by d'Oubril, on the ground of his having

ing exceeded his powers or deviated from his instructions; and thus every thing on the continent seemed to tend to a new war.

During this critical state of affairs, Mr. Fox, whose constitution had been breaking eve rsince he had assumed the burden of administration, died, Sept. 13th, and thus England lost within a few months the two political characters who stood highest, not only with their respective parties, but in the estimation of the public in general, which had once fondly hoped to see them act in conjunction for the extrication of their country from its difficulties.

The hostility manifested by the king of Prussia against France, naturally produced his reconciliation with England, and a nobleman was sent over to settle all differences and cement a new friendship. The king of Sweden followed the same example, and the courts of Petersburg and Berlin entered into a close alliance. Thus was formed a new confederacy, which, in the sanguine, excited confident expectations of setting limits to that overgrown power whose ambitious views extended with every new success. The negotiations at Paris were at a stand, though Lord Lauderdale did not return till October.

The Prussian army now assembled in great force, and the elector of Saxony, probably through the inability of preserving a neutrality, joined it with his troops. The elector of Hesse, however, declared his resolution of remaining perfectly neutral. The Duke of Brunswick took the chief command, and the king of Prussia in person marched into the field. The French emperor was not backward to meet the approaching storm. He sent the separate columns of his army by different routes under his ablest generals, and himself proceeded towards the scene of action. His brother Louis at the same time was directed to advance with an army from Holland into Westphalia.

The two main armies came in presence of each other on the northern borders of Franconia; and after some fruitless negotiations, the king of Prussia declared war against France, issuing at the same time an elaborate manifesto, in which he exposed his numerous grievances, and the boundless ambition of his adversary. Napoleon, without deigning an answer, hastened to bring the quarrel to a decision. After some manœuvres, in which his generals displayed an undoubted superiority of skill, and pushed bodies of men between the Prussians and their capital, a general engagement was brought on at Auerstadt to the north of Jena, on October 14th. The sum of the contending armies exceeded 200,000 men, and the contest was obstinate and bloody. The Duke of Brunswick, receiving a wound at the commencement, was obliged to quit the field. A number of Prussian generals were killed or wounded, and the action terminated in a defeat of the Prussians, so entire, that nothing of an army remained to oppose the conqueror. Bonaparte advanced through Saxony, to which he granted a pacification, to Berlin, without the least resistance, and in the meantime the strong fortresses of Spandau, Custrin, and Stettin, opened their gates to his generals. Magdeburg, defended by a numerous garrison, and possessed of immense magazines,

zines, capitulated after a short bombardment. Of the two most considerable bodies of retreating Prussians, that under the Prince of Hohenloe was obliged to surrender before it could reach the banks of the Oder; and that commanded by General Blucher, after crossing the whole of Lower Saxony, and reaching Lubeck, was pursued into the heart of that city by the French, who, after a dreadful combat, made prisoners of all that remained. The Duke of Brunswick died of his wound and of anxiety of mind. The King of Prussia fled to his Polish dominions; while Napoleon from Berlin issued his orders for the regulation of the north of Germany as its sovereign. One instance of his despotic power was the seizure of the free city of Hamburgh, which was entered by the French troops on November 19th. The confiscation of all British property was the first measure of the invaders, and its consequences must be severely felt by our merchants and manufacturers.

While these great and disastrous scenes were acting on the continent, their impression was in some degree lightened at home, by the bustle of a general election, which succeeded the dissolution of parliament on Oct. 25th. The contested elections seem upon the whole to have been fewer than upon former occasions, and to have arisen rather from local and personal competitions, than from the struggles of public parties.

In the early part of the year, great heats subsisted in the United States of America respecting the conduct of the English cruizers in making prize of American vessels laden with the produce of the French West-India islands, and conveying them to Europe; and a non-importation act passed in congress relative to articles of British produce, to take place in the November following. The differences between the countries were unfortunately aggravated by the conduct of the commander of an English frigate stationed off the harbour of New York. Commissioners were, however, appointed by both nations to discuss in an amicable manner the subjects in dispute; but it is doubted whether they have been able to come to an agreement concerning the fundamental principles of the right of a neutral nation to carry the property of a belligerent power.

Contests have also arisen between the United States and the Spaniards on the borders of Louisiana and the Mexican territory, which threatened immediate hostilities, but upon the advance of some troops of the States, the Spaniards retired from the disputed territory.

Soon after the occupation of Hamburgh by the French, an extraordinary proclamation was issued by Napoleon, dated Berlin, Nov. 1st. which, by way of retaliation for the maritime policy of England, declared the British islands to be in *a state of blockade*; all English subjects found in countries occupied by the French arms to be prisoners of war; and all British produce and manufactures to be confiscated. A spirit of hostility and revenge was displayed in the language of this proclamation, which proved how deeply its author was exasperated with the only power that has opposed any effectual resistance to his ambitious schemes.

On November 15th, Breslaw was entered by the French; on the

20th the strong fortress of Hameln surrendered to them; and on the 21st they took possession of Bremen. They have, however, almost entirely withdrawn from Hamburgh, after levying large contributions; and it seems that it has been found necessary to relax the severe ordinances first passed relative to British property in that city, and that its port has been again opened.

The king of Prussia having refused to accede to a proposed armistice, Napoleon set off from Berlin for the frontiers of Poland. At the same time addresses were forwarded to the Poles, exhorting them to free themselves from their masters, and resume a national existence under the protection of the French emperor. The latest information from those countries mentions the arrival of the French troops at Warsaw, and the retreat of the Russians across the Vistula, after having sustained some loss in various skirmishes.

An expedition under the command of general Crawford, which had long been detained by contrary winds, sailed in the beginning of December, supposed to be destined to the West Indies.

For a considerable time past, disturbances have prevailed in parts of Ireland, chiefly in the province of Connaught, excited by a set of banditti calling themselves *Threshers*, whose professed object is to resist the payment of tithes, but who seem likewise to have adopted principles of hostility to government in general. They have committed various outrages, and have hitherto set at defiance the attempts of the Irish government to quell them. A large body of chosen troops, now under orders for Ireland, is probably intended to prevent further mischief from these insurgents.

Advices have been lately received of the melancholy loss of his Majesty's ship the Athenienne, of 64 guns, Capt. Raynsford, which, in its passage to Malta, struck upon a sunken rock in the Mediterranean, and was completely wrecked. The captain and 347 men and officers were drowned.

On December 15th the new Parliament met for the purpose of swearing in members, when Mr. Abbott was re-chosen Speaker of the House of Commons without opposition; and on Dec. 19th the King's Speech was read by the Lord Chancellor. Its purport was chiefly to prepare men's minds for the awful crisis now impending, and to animate them to adequate exertions against "the formidable and increasing power of the enemy." It asserts that the resistance of the king of Prussia to the usurpations of France was without any previous concert with his Majesty, but avows the measures taken to unite councils and interests with him. It extols the good faith of our remaining allies, and suggests the necessity of cultivating their friendship. Such are the prospects with which the year 1806 concludes!

LITERARY AND MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

A MAGNIFICENT design, highly interesting to the Arts, is in progress under the title of *The British Gallery of Pictures*, to be published in Numbers, in two Series; the First, containing a Description of the Cabinets and Galleries of Pictures in Great Britain, embellished with Engravings, on a small Scale, from all the best and most interesting Paintings in the different Collections.

The Second, containing a History of Painting and its Professors; embellished with highly finished Specimens from the Works of the most celebrated Masters, selected from the finest examples in Great Britain. Together with a descriptive Elucidation of the peculiar Excellence of each Painting, and Anecdotes of the Pictures.

Of this Work, the historical and descriptive part will be undertaken by Mr. Ottley. The Engravings will be executed by Mr. P. W. Tomkins, Historical Engraver to her Majesty, Mr. L. Schiavonetti, Mr. A. Cardon, and other eminent artists. The whole will be superintended by Mr. Tresham. Each number of the First Series will contain four plates, each including several Pictures; and of the Second Series, three highly-finished prints. A number of each will be published once a quarter, till a more rapid delivery can be accomplished; and the whole, it is expected, will not exceed 50 numbers. The particulars of this great national work are given in a detailed prospectus.

A new edition of the *Chronicles of Hollingshed*, which are become extremely scarce and valuable, is about to be published; which will comprize all the omissions of the original edition, but in other respects will be an exact copy of the author's own language and orthography, only changing the black letter for a modern and handsome type.

Captain Williamson, from whose designs and notes, that magnificent work, "The Wild Sports of India," has been published, has undertaken a tour through Great Britain for the purpose of making a complete Agricultural and Statistical Survey of the island, the result of which will be published, in a *Description of Great Britain*, to be printed in numbers with illustrative plates: the whole to make at least 6 vols. in 8vo.

The first volume of *Bibliotheca Greca*, in 8vo. intended to comprize a series of the best Greek Authors, has lately been published at Paris. This volume contains the various history of Aelian, and the fragments of Heraclides of Pontus, and Nicolas of Damascus. These editions are principally intended for the use of native Greeks, engaged in the study of their ancient tongue. The project is undertaken under the auspices, and at the expence of M. M. Zozima, two Greek brothers. The editor likewise is a Greek, Dr. Coray, formerly of Smyrna, well known as one of the most learned scholars of the present day. The following account of the objects of this undertaking, is extracted from the French Journals.

The Greeks have for some years been making great and successful efforts in the cultivation of the sciences and literature. Many schools have been established for the purpose of teaching the ancient tongue. To improve the modern language, and the national taste, the best productions of foreign writers have been translated. But the most certain method of reviving in this country good taste, and the love of sound literature, is to multiply copies of the best productions of Greek antiquity. By the study of these great models, by the remembrance of former glory which they will revive, and the emulation which they will naturally inspire; modern Greece may be replaced in the rank of enlightened countries.

Numberless editions of Greek authors have been published in Europe. But in general they are little adapted to the use of modern Greeks. They are generally incumbered by Latin versions, and by a long apparatus of critical and grammatical observations, which can be of no use in Greek schools, where the master and scholars are equally ignorant of Latin, and where the object is not so much to form critics, and men of erudition, as to give instruction in language,

guage, and aids to the formation of good taste. To facilitate the progress of information in Greece, it is desirable to collect in as few volumes as possible the best writers, both in prose and verse, to print them with the utmost correctness, to introduce only such remarks as are absolutely necessary, to write them in Greek, and to sell the editions at a moderate price.

This simple and natural project of printing, for the use of modern Greeks, the best of their ancient writings, has perhaps occurred to the minds of many persons, who for want of means or zeal, have not been able or willing to carry it into execution. It has at length been undertaken under favourable circumstances. M. M. Zozima, who possess at the same time the necessary pecuniary resources, and the most ardent zeal for the honour of their country, have resolved to dedicate part of their fortune to the publication of a Bibliotheca Græca, consisting of the best classic authors.

They have committed the superintendence of the edition to Dr. Coray, a Greek; who by his profound erudition and pure and correct taste, would have done honour to the best ages of antiquity. Europe ranks him among the most learned and ingenious critics of the time, a reputation which his labours in Theophrastus, Hippocrates, Athenæus, and Heliodorus, have justly gained for him.

To complete the value of their Bibliotheca, M. M. Zozima have committed it to the press of M. Firmin Didot. He has cast new characters for the purpose, which are very beautiful.

The generosity of the projectors of this edition has proceeded further. For the benefit of their countrymen who are in lower circumstances, they propose to present copies to young persons, to whom the purchase might be inconvenient, and whose diligence and improvement shall be attested by their teachers. They will also present them to such masters, as shall exert themselves with activity and perseverance for the instruction of their pupils.

Dr. Coray has written a preface to the volume in modern Greek, in which he announces the plan of the edition, and from which the preceding observations have been taken. He proposes to publish in succession, with their scholiasts, Homer, and the Homeridæ, Hesiod, the tragic writers, Aristophanes, Thucydides, Plato, Callimachus, Apollonius, &c. He will insert only those various readings which possess some probability. Where the text is indubitably corrupt, and no correction is afforded by the collation of editions or manuscripts, Dr. Coray will print it according to his own conjectures, or those of other critics, but will always faithfully preserve the common reading in the margin.

These editions, though principally intended for the use of modern Greeks, will probably be received with approbation in the rest of Europe. The corrections of so ingenious and learned a scholar as Dr. Coray, will give them great value in the eyes of all who are engaged in the critical study of the Greek authors. They will be valuable also for their typographical correctness. The notes, though written in ancient Greek, will occasion no obstruction to the reader, for they who understand the text a little, will understand the commentary with ease. The preface and accounts of authors will be written in the vulgar idiom, and it will be fortunate if curiosity to read them shall contribute to spread the study of a modern language which is too much neglected, and which is of great utility by the light which it throws on the ancient tongue.

There is annexed to the preface a piece of considerable length, written also in modern Greek, in which, under the modest title of hasty and extemporary thoughts (στοχασμι αυτοσχεδι) are found some curious details respecting the defects of instruction in Greece, and on Greek grammar considered in a philosophical point of view. Dr. Coray skilfully developes the theory of the middle verb, which is well understood by European scholars, but is totally unknown to the modern Greeks. Some valuable grammatical observations occur respecting the common dialect, adverbs, propositions, pronouns, the number of conjugations, &c.

The first part of an edition of *Wolf's Homer* in folio, appeared at the Leipsic fair, which is the most splendid work that Germany has yet produced. The beauty of the paper, and the elegance of the characters are greatly admired, and such is said to be the correctness of the text, that prizes might, as formerly, be

be offered for the discovery of a fault. The work is to be completed in four parts. Only fifteen subscriptions have been received, and a hundred copies printed. The King of Prussia has presented a copy to each of the universities in his states.

We have the pleasure to learn that Dr. Scott, the Orientalist, is preparing a new edition, revised and translated from the complete Arabic MS copy brought over by Mr. Montague, of the *Arabian Nights Entertainments*, with notes, illustrative of the customs and manners of the country. The additional Tales, which have never been translated, are equally interesting and excellent. The translations of this captivating Work, which have been published in this country, have been *done into English* from the miserable version of M. Galland, who, it is well known, trusted to an illiterate verbal translator, being himself wholly ignorant of the Arabic Language.

THE New Edition of Mr. Pinkerton's Modern Geography in 3 vols. Quarto, will appear early in January.

*** The Extension of the Work in Three large Volumes, has enabled the Author to give to its several parts a juster proportion and greater harmony than in the former Edition: and in consequence of the foreign Editions having excited the attention of Statesmen as well as Men of Letters, he has received so much valuable assistance, that scarcely a Country can be named, on which new information has not been given, derived from some distinguished Native or scientific Traveller. During the Author's late residence at Paris, he procured many scarce Works, the want of which he had before regretted, and the most recent Spanish materials concerning their Colonies in North and South America. Hence the account of New Spain, of the three Viceroyalties in South America, of Chili, and the government of Caracas, will be found to contain much new, authentic, and important Information. The Description of the United States has also been greatly improved and enlarged from the most authentic materials; and that of the West Indies extended as their importance to this Country required. Five new maps, too, are added, of the various subdivisions of South America. Mr. Aikin has carefully revised the Botanical Part throughout. Dr. Shaw has added Zoological Remarks, at the end of each volume, and every exertion has been used to render the Work as complete as possible.

The Second Edition of Mr. Clarkson's Portraiture of Quakerism, with considerable alterations, will appear in a few days.—The First Edition of this work, which contains the most interesting and original information concerning the Moral Education, Discipline, Peculiar Customs, Religious Principles, Political and Civil Œconomy and Character of the Society of Friends, consisted of two thousand five hundred copies, which were all purchased within two months after being finished at press, without the aid of advertising.

Dr. J. E. Smith proposes shortly to publish an Introduction to Botany in one vol. 8vo. with a few plates, intended for the use of female as well as male students of that delightful science, and divested of every thing that might be deemed exceptionable.

The literary History of the eighteenth century is about to receive a further very valuable illustration from the pen of Lord Woodhouselee, in his Life of the late Lord Kames, which will be published very shortly

Mr. Charles Bell's System of Operative Surgery, will appear early in January.

The beautiful moral aphorisms of Sir Philip Sydney, edited by Miss Porter, are nearly ready for publication.

There is in the Press an account of Dr. Gall's New Theory of Physiognomy, founded on the Anatomy and Physiology of the Brain, and the form of the Skull.

J. Gifford and H. R. Yorke, Esqrs. have in great forwardness, the History of the Administration of the late Mr. Pitt, which will be comprised in four octavo volumes.

Mr. Macdiarmid's Lives of eminent Statesmen are in the Press.

The admirers of the late Dr. Currie of Liverpool, will be pleased to hear, that an engraved Portrait of that celebrated Man, from a miniature picture in the Possession of Mrs. Cairncross, Dr. Currie's Sister, will be published early in the Spring of the present year.

The first part of Dr. Clutterbuck's Inquiry into the Seat and Nature of Fever, is expected to make its appearance in the course of the ensuing month.

Mr. Southey's Poems of MADOC and THALABA, have been reprinted in *America*.

Mr. Cumberland and Sir James Bland Burgess, have in conjunction written a Poem of which report speaks highly, entitled the Exodiad—embracing the History of Moses from the period of his leading the Israelites out of Egypt, to his death upon Mount Horeb. The work will appear during the month of January.

Dr. Herdman has in the press, his second Discourse on the interesting subject of the Management of Infants, and the Treatment of their Diseases.—Written in a plain familiar style, to render it intelligible and useful to all mothers, and those who have the management of infants.

The Rev. J. Joyce, author of the Scientific Dialogues, will publish early in the present month, two volumes on Chemistry, the same size, and on the same plans, with plates by Porter.

Miss Anna Maria Porter, is engaged upon a new Novel, to be entitled the HUNGARIAN BROTHERS.

The Rev. Richard Lyne, author of the Latin Primer, will publish in the course of January, a new work, entitled *Festuca Grammatica*, or Child's first Guide to the Rudiments of Latin Grammar, in four parts.

The Rev. Mr. Cobbold, of Woolpit, Suffolk, intends shortly presenting the Public with a Chart of English History, on the same Plan as his Chart of Scripture History, recently published.

An Octavo edition of Captain Williamson's Wild Sports of India is expected shortly.

The fourth volume of Malcolm's *Londinum Redivivum*, will appear early in the year.

The Rev. Mr. Abbott has a volume of Sermons in the press.

Mrs. Roach has in the press a new Romance.

The Topography of the Lake of Killarney, by Mr. Weld, illustrated with exquisite Engravings, is nearly ready.

In the course of January, will be published. A CHRONOLOGICAL REGISTER of BOTH HOUSES of PARLIAMENT, from the Union in 1708 to the Election of the Third Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in 1806. By ROBERT BEATSON, Esq. LL.D. Author of the Political Index to the Histories of Great Britain and Ireland.

Mr. Blair recommences his lectures on Anthropology, or the Natural History of Man, on Jan. 17th, at the Bloomsbury Dispensary, in Great Russel Street. Particulars may be had at his house, 69, Great Russel Street.

Proposals are issued for publishing by subscription two engravings of the Moon in Plano, by the late John Russel, Esqr. R. A. Subscriptions received by Mr. Faden, Charing Cross, and Mr. W. Russel, 29, Newman Street.

A new edition of PALMERIN of ENGLAND, corrected from the original Portugueze, by Mr. Southey, is in the Press, and will shortly be published. Mr. Southey has also in the Press, a translation of the CHRONICLE of the CID, from the Spanish.

Mr. Landseer has nearly ready for publication, his Course of Lectures as delivered before the Members of the Royal Institution.

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METEOROLOGICAL.

METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

Introductory Remarks on the Register, with an account of the Instruments.

EVERY correct Register of the Weather may be considered as intended for two purposes: first, as a daily record of the Phœnomena, regarded as passing occurrences: secondly, as a continued notation of facts interesting to the Philosopher, and from which he may deduce results, for the purpose of extending our knowledge of the Œconomy of the Seasons. This application of the subject it is desirable to encourage; for it cannot be doubted, that from views less limited, we should deduce conclusions less partial as to these changes; and instead of that scene of confusion, that domain of chance which, as commonly seen, they present, we should discover a chain of causes and effects demonstrative, like the rest of Creation, of the Infinite Wisdom and Goodness of its Author. Viewing the matter in this light, we have thought proper to deviate from the usual practice, as to the mode of stating the observations. We regard the Natural Period of the Lunar Month as better adapted to the investigation of Natural Phœnomena, than the artificial divisions of the Calendar. We have accordingly adopted it, placing however the date as usual in the first column. To every useful purpose of a Register as commonly conducted, we shall thus superadd the advantage of a regular practical facility of discussing the question, in what degree the Weather, in its shorter as well as longer periods of fluctuation, is determined by the relative positions of the planets composing our system: an opinion sanctioned by the most ancient prejudices, and to which some modern philosophers have been induced by their researches again to attach considerable interest.

(To be continued.)

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.

		Wind	Pressure max.	Pressure min.	Temp. max.	Temp. min.	Evap.	Rain, &c.
New M. *a.* Nov.	10	N	30.10	30.10	48	40	———	
	11	SW	30.10	29.98	50	33	4	
a.	12	SW	———	———	47	34	———	
	13	SW	30.18	29.98	57	48	4	
	14	SW	29.98	29.86	53	48	3	1
	15	SW	29.86	29.70	53	37	6	1
	16	SW	29.88	29.70	46	39	.10	
b.	17	SW	29.82	29.70	53	43	8	
1st. Q.	18	SW	29.70	29.58	55	47	.11	4
d.	19	SW	29.25	29.01	51	35	7	.63
	20	SW	29.34	29.04	47	35	.15	
b. c.	21	SW	29.33	29.00	45	31	8	2
b. c.	22	W	29.68	29.33	43	27	4	
b. c.	23	SW	29.83	29.46	51	33	2	2
	24	SW	29.83	29.65	56	52	8	
	25	SW	29.46	29.26	57	47	8	3
Full M. *b.*	26	SW	29.88	29.46	50	39	4	.18
	27	NW	30.01	29.90	56	41	0	.17
	28	SW	30.04	29.64	60	54	8	2
e.	29	SW	29.69	29.53	58	36	.20	
	30	W	29.69	29.13	45	33	6	4
f. Dec.	1	SW	29.13	28.63	50	38	8	.30
L. Q. *g.*	2	W	29.59	28.63	42	38	8	1
	3	NW	29.67	29.63	43	31	8	2
	4	W	29.67	29.45	50	38	2	2
	5	SW	29.45	29.27	54	48	.20	
	6	SW	29.30	29.25	58	33	.12	
	7	W	29.03	29.00	47	38	7	6
	8	Var.	29.28	29.00	45	36	0	.17
	9	NW	29.42	29.33	44	33	3	9
			29.66	29.42	50.5	38.8		
			M. 29.54		M. 44.60		T. 1.99	T. 1.84

N. B. The Notations comprised in each Line relate to a period of 24 hours reckoned *from* 9 a. m. on the day of the date. A dash denotes that the period so marked is to form a part of that allotted to the next observation.

NOTES.

a. Misty, the Trees dripping, without Rain.

b. Lunar halo: very brilliant on the nights of 22 and 26. Two series of the prismatic colours were distinguished.

c. Hoar frost. Some hail on the 21st.

d. The Barom. appeared to have descended still lower. Pretty strong signs of *pos*. Electricity the 18th p. m. after which very stormy from midnight to sun-rise.

e. Wind N.W. at 8 p. m. slight shower from a mass of clouds passing in the S. in which it is said to have lightened. On examination a changeable Electricity was found in the insulated conductor.

f. Very stormy night. Loud Thunder about 3 a. m. 2d. a *pos*. Electricity after sunrise.

g. Soon after 2 p. m. a Squall from the N.W. with Snow and finally Rain. The conductor was highly charged *pos*. giving dense Sparks. In proportion as the Nimbus passed off to the S.E. this went off and finally succeeded a weaker *neg*. charge.

RESULTS.

The prevailing Wind has been decidedly S.W.; often amounting to a gale, more especially in the intervals between midnight and sun-rise.

Mean Barometrical Pressure 29.54 In.; the column almost constantly in motion.

Mean Temperature, by Six's Thermom. 44 6°.

Total evaporation 1.99 In. (this is probably greater than the Evap. at the surface of the Earth.)

Total of Rain 1.84 In. being a small amount for the season, though showers have been frequent. It should be remarked that we had 5 Inches in the last wet Moon, ending viii. month (August) 13. which was as much above the mean.

L. HOWARD.

Plaistow, XII. month 19, 1806.

DISCOVERIES AND IMPROVEMENTS

IN ARTS AND MANUFACTURES IN 1806.

Preservation of Water at Sea.

CAPTAIN KRUSENSTERN, who commanded the Russian expedition of discovery in 1805, has sent an account home of his having proved, in the most satisfactory manner, the great efficacy which the operation of charring the insides of casks has to preserve water perfectly sweet at sea. He had sixty casks charred more deeply than usual before he sailed, and, during his stay at the Brazils, had the greatest part of his casks burned on the inside; the water in them was constantly found to be good during the whole of his passage to the Isle of Washington: at Japan, he again burned the inside of the casks, which preserved the water quite pure during a seven weeks passage from thence to Kamschatka. The captain declares, that, by this means, the water was "constantly pure, and as good as that from the best springs." He also took care that the casks should never be filled with sea-water, as is usual, to save the trouble of shifting the ballast, because this tends to hasten the corruption of the fresh water afterwards put into them.

The charring operates both by the antiseptic properties of the charcoal, and in preventing the solution of the extractive part of the wood.

Charring is much recommended for wine-casks also, and all casks which are to contain liquors.

The process of charring casks was recommended by Berthollet, in a communication to the National Institute of France in 1803; but Lowitz had discovered the antiseptic properties of charcoal many years before, as appears from some memoirs in Crell's Journal, the translation of which was published here by Baldwin in 1793; an Account of the Use of Charcoal for "preserving Water sweet for the Use of Seamen in Sea Voyages," was also published in Dublin, in July 1791, in the Hibernian Magazine, extracted from Mr. Lowitz's Memoirs on this subject.

As nothing contributes more to the health of seamen than the goodness of the water they use, it is hoped our Admiralty will, at last, give orders for the use of this process in our sea service; especially as it has been first used in the service of another nation, which seems to be an indispensable requisite to the adoption of any improvement that depends on them.

Hydraulic Ram of Montgolfier.

The accounts of this engine having been principally published here in 1806, render it proper to be noticed in this work.

The hydraulic ram operates by the momentum of a fall of water, which, suddenly stopped in its course, re-acts in another direction. An horizontal pipe, of some considerable length, proceeds from the bottom of a reservoir of water; at its other extremity is placed a valve opening downwards; at a small distance before this valve, the pipe communicates with an air-vessel by a valve opening upwards; and just above this last valve a smaller pipe rises upwards, through which the water is conveyed to the place required.

This apparatus acts by alternate impulses: the water first runs out past the descending valve, till it acquires that momentum, from the accelerated velocity of its fall in the reservoirs, which closes that valve by forcing it upwards; the momentum then forces it into the air-vessel and the ascending pipe, till the re-action of the enclosed air, and the elevation of the water in this last pipe, counterbalances its force; the weight of the descending valve, then superior to its impulse, causes it to fall, the water issues as at first, and the same course is repeated; while the water passes at the descending valve, the re-action of the compressed air in the air-vessel closes the ascending valve, and forces the water up the vertical pipe.

Mr. Boulton, of Soho, obtained a patent, 1797, (an account of which is published in the 9th volume of the Repertory of Arts), for various applications of the

the hydraulic principles on which the action of the ram depends, the second of which is precisely the same as the ram. It is, therefore, not unlikely, that Montgolfier only *translated* Mr. Boulton's contrivance into French. This is the more probable, as it is a thing frequently practised by our Gallic neighbours, of which many instances may be seen in the *Annales des Arts*: perhaps it is part of their system of Universal Plunder to appropriate intellectual as well as territorial property; if so, it ought to be strenuously resisted by all who hold this system in the abhorrence it deserves.

An engine, on the same principles, is described in the Philosophical Transactions of 1775, to have been erected at the seat of Philip Egerton, Esq. at Oulton, in Cheshire, in which the pipe was 200 yards long, and two inches and a half diameter, and the supply of water was twenty feet above this: it had an air-vessel fitted with a valve, by the re-action of the air in which the water was forced upwards, to supply a brewery and other offices.

Count Rumford's Method of preventing the Glare of Lamps.

Count Rumford has discovered, by accurate experiment, that light transmitted through ground glass loses very little more, if any, of its intensity, than when it passes through plain glass; this he applies to prevent the hurtful and painful effect which the intense light of Argand lamps produces on the eye, by surrounding them with cylinders of ground glass, which he has made of a larger diameter, in proportion as he wishes the light to fall less strongly on any particular spot.

He also recommends the windows of rooms, lighted from narrow courts or yards, to be formed of ground glass, that more of the oblique rays may be refracted through them.

Method of forming Walls in India.

The walls are first built with moistened earth, like those called *cob* walls in Devonshire; they are afterwards, when dry, surrounded with a framework, at a proper distance to support firewood in contact with every part of them in different stages, so that the quantity in the lowest stage is greatest: this, as it burns down, bakes the walls like bricks, to the thickness of ten inches. These walls are so strong, that they resist the attacks of floods, and last for centuries. We had the first account of them in 1806, though so long in use in India before.

New Method of casting large Statues in Bronze.

This method was first practised for large statues, under the direction of M. Le Gois, in making a cast from his statue of Joan of Arc, for the city of Orleans; it before was used only for casting small articles. The statue was enclosed with seven tier of cases, adapted to each other, which were successively filled with the argillaceous sand used by founders, well rammed round the figure; the cases were formed so as to be separated into several pieces, with the compressed sand contained in them, that the statue might be removed; they were then carefully dried: another mold was made, in a similar way, for casting the core; and when finished, a coat of modelling clay was applied to its inside, of the thickness intended to be given to the bronze, the core was cast in it, which, as usual, was composed of equal parts of plaster of Paris and of brickdust. Eight rods of iron were so laid in the core as to project a few inches from it, in order to place it in the mold; when the pieces of the mold, as well as the core, were well dried, they were put together round the core ready for casting, and secured by screw presses. The whole was then placed in a proper position near the furnace that contained the fused bronze, the passages were constructed for the liquid metal to flow into the mold, and the cast then made from about 32cwt. of metal. This method succeeded perfectly well, and is much cheaper, and less troublesome, than that hitherto in use for works of this size.

Tide Mill, with a Water Wheel that rises and falls with the Tide.

A tide-mill has been constructed at East Greenwich, whose water wheel is 11 feet in diameter, and 24 feet long, and is placed in a frame that can be raised

raised and lowered at pleasure by strong racks and pinions, in which the pressure of the water on a pair of horizontal folding gates beneath, considerably assists; a reservoir of four acres receives the water at flood, and delivers it again at ebb tide; there is a contrivance for making the reversed movement of the water-wheel always impel the stones in the same direction, and to admit it to rise and fall without altering the level of the principal horizontal wheel. Eight pair of stones are worked by it twenty hours in every twenty-four. The whole work does great credit to Mr. Lloyd, the engineer who built it.

Patent Coal Measure, by Mr. Vazie.

Mr. Robert Vazie has lately got a patent for a measure for coals, which will effectually regulate the quantity of the heap above the brim of the vessel. An iron bow, jointed like the handle of a bucket, is attached to the measure, and has a pendulous ball hanging to the middle, which, when the bow is elevated vertically, falls down, and ascertains the just height to which the point of the conical heap formed by the coals, should be raised. This conical heap, that is allowed by custom, forms a very considerable part of the whole quantity, and particularly in large measures, should carefully be attended to. If this measure is generally adopted, it will prevent disputes, and much intentional imposition.

Mr. Dodd's Patent Improvements for Fireplaces.

These consist of moveable metallic reflectors, formed so as to slide in behind the fire-place when required, to be placed in any angle to the fire when drawn out, and to serve occasionally for confining the draft so as to increase it; and likewise of an hollow parallelopiped, of such size as completely to enclose the stove with the fire, to serve as an extinguisher, by excluding the air, when used. The reflectors are evidently more useful than the extinguisher.

English Iron made equal to Swedish.

Accounts have been published here last month, that Mr. Reynolds, of the Ketley iron-works, Cornwall, has so much improved the quality of the iron manufactured under his direction, that it is now fully equal to the best Swedish or Russian. It is stated that the chief cause of this improvement is, his letting the iron out of each of the blast furnaces four times in twenty-four hours. This seems very inadequate to the effect; but we hope to be able, in a future Number, to give a more particular account of a process, the importance of which merits much attention.

Parallel Ruler, exempt from lateral Deviation, by Mr. J. W. Boswell.

This instrument consists of three oblong slips, or rulers, of hard wood, laid parallel to each other, and connected by two pair of brass pieces, of equal length; the extremities of which pieces, where they meet on the middle ruler, are formed into portions of toothed wheels that lock into each other, which restricts the motion of the two external rulers to a direction solely perpendicular to each other; and thus effectually prevents side deviation in them, without in the least disturbing the parallelism of their sideral edges.

The other contrivances for this purpose in use, are all more or less liable to destroy the parallelism of the rulers; and the triple parallel ruler, which this somewhat resembles, admits of side deviation as much as the common one.

Mr. Brooks, in the Strand, has been instructed to make parallel rulers of this sort by the inventor. They are very convenient instruments for all rectilineal drawing, and perfectly accurate.

A Statical Lamp, which maintains the Oil at a nearly equal Level.

This lamp has a spherical cavity, communicating by a pipe with an oil vessel and burner, formed on Argand's, or the common construction, that is somewhat higher than it; within this cavity, a solid, of a hemispherical shape, is suspended on an horizontal axis, the greatest part of which will float above a strong brine with which the cavity is half filled; the pipe, burner, and oil vessel, are filled with oil, and as this is consumed, the brine running in to supply its place below, raises

raises it to a proper height, while the hemispherical solid occupies the space left by the brine in the cavity, by falling lower as the brine passes beneath the oil.

The principle of this apparatus is produced by the greater specific weight of the brine, which keeps the oil at a proportionally higher elevation. The use of the solid hemisphere is to preserve the level of the brine. An instrument of this kind is said to have been, many years ago, contrived by Dr. Hooke: the above is described in the Philosophical Journal, in a paper signed A. F.

New Apparatus for Distillation.

M. Julia uses a method of distilling brandy in France, which is found to be very advantageous, and may be applied to distillation in general. The apparatus may be best conceived by considering it as a union of two stills, in one of which the liquor is heated before it is let into the other, which is placed lower than it; each communicates with the worm, and is furnished with a feeding pipe and a discharging cock. The lower still is charged with a fourth less liquor than the upper, and, when the distillation is completed in it, the residuum is drawn off, and the hot liquor from the higher still is let to run into it, which by this time will have evaporated the quantity above that which will fill the lower still to the first level; the higher still is then filled with cold liquor, and the operation is repeated. This method prevents any stoppage from taking place in the distillation, as the lower still is never suffered to cool, which occasions a considerable saving in fuel.

It would be better, we think, if each still had a separate worm; if the same worm is used for both, the spirit from the lower still will be apt to run into the higher, and be condensed in it, whenever the latter is charged with cold liquor.

Messrs. Sylvester and Co.'s patent Method of laminating Zinc.

This consists in keeping the bars of zinc in a heat of between 200 and 300 Fahrenheit, while they are laminated between rollers to one fourth of their thickness, after which they may be farther reduced without heat. The plates after rolling are to be annealed, by which they acquire sufficient flexibility for use. The patent has been renewed lately, to extend it to roofing houses and sheathing ships. Though very proper for the first use, it is supposed it would not be very fit for the latter, as it would permit the adherence of shells and sea weeds full as much, if not more, than lead.

Zinc is greatly used in China, for numerous purposes; and, as its ore is very abundant in England, it may certainly be equally serviceable here, and also form an article for export to China.

Mr. Hardy's Patent Improvements in Weighing Apparatus.

This invention consists principally in a division of the scale, that holds the weights, into one series of small squares, each capable of holding two half-hundred weights, and another of more minute squares, for pound weights; the first square in each series is blank, the rest are marked in succession, with the numeral cyphers, from one to the greatest number wanted. By this means, the number on the square next the last weight in each of the two divisions, shews at once the sum of the whole weight in the scale, without counting, by which time is saved, and chance of mistakes avoided.

The large weights are formed into half cubes, each of 56lb. that they may be readily moved, and accurately placed on the squares. Methods are also mentioned in the specification for preventing the necessity of moving all the weights in each operation.

Mr. Milton's Patent Method of rendering Carriages more safe.

Mr. Milton's carriage has a box attached beneath it to hold the luggage, which descends to within a foot of the ground, and is of the length and breadth of the carriage: at the lower corners of this box small wheels are fixed, so that they may be suspended a few inches from the ground; by which means, if one

of

of the large wheels come off, the small one next it supplies its place, without causing any jolt that signifies in this small descent, and thus prevents the carriage from oversetting. This danger is likewise diminished from the position mentioned of the luggage, which keeps the center of gravity of the whole as low as possible.

A carriage of this sort, with six inside and ten outside passengers, carrying three tons, was tried over a rough road, by letting off one of the large wheels, when the corresponding reserved wheel instantly came into play in the most complete manner; and the carriage remained on its wheels when drawn over uneven banks, where any common coach must have overset.

The only objection to this construction for stage coaches, is, the greater difficulty of moving the luggage which it would occasion; this, in reality, is of no consideration, compared with the safety of passengers; but unfortunately in those vehicles, the profit of the proprietors and drivers is alone considered.

A cheap Bedstead for Workhouses, by Mr. Gregson.

This bedstead consists of two stands of cast iron, called dogs, one of which forms the head, and the other the foot; each is forty-one inches long and thirteen high, and has cast in its upper surface five regular indentations, to receive the ends of five wooden bars, which passing between the two stands, form the support for the bed; the two outside bars are seven inches broad, and one inch and one-eighth thick, the three inner ones are five inches broad, and of the same thickness: a headboard is fixed to the two outer bars by pins, which project from it, and pass into holes bored for their reception. Bedsteads of this kind cost little, are easily taken to pieces to be cleaned, and may be put together again in a few minutes.

On fastening Iron in Stone.

M. Gillet Laumont has fastened in stone the supports of rings in stables, which remained firm for twenty-five years, by wrapping them, before insertion, in linen rags moistened with vinegar and soot, and filling up the holes tight all round with wedges and nails of old iron: this should be only used with thick and hard stone; if they are not so, the swelling of the iron as it rusts will crack them. When the holes are so situated that a fluid mixture can be poured into them, M. Laumont prefers to first wedge the iron inserted tight with bits of tile made hot, and then fill up the interstices with a mixture of melted pitch or rosin, and brickdust, poured on hot, which unites perfectly with stone and metal, does not act on iron, and is impervious to water.

How those who cannot swim may float if they fall into Water.

Mr. William Nicholson has published some very good directions for this object, the chief of which are, that when a person falls into water, who has not learned to swim, he should carefully avoid raising his hands above the water, and then by moving them under water, in any manner he chuses, his head will rise high enough to enable him to breathe freely: if he moves his legs, as in the action of walking up stairs, more of his body will rise above the water, which will allow him to use less exertion with his hands.

To which we will add, that by throwing back the head and shoulders so as to thrust out the chest to its greatest extent, and keeping it in that position, the volume of air contained in the lungs will be so much increased, as to add very considerably to the buoyance of the upper part of the body; this alone would enable some people to float without using any motion of their limbs.

Cleaning Feathers from Animal Oil.

The feathers are to be put in a large tub, and covered with lime water about three inches, when well immersed and stirred therein, after lying four days, they should be taken out, drained in sieves, washed well in clean water, and then dried in nets in airy rooms: the whole process will be completed in three weeks, when the feathers will only require beating for use. Mrs. Jane Richardson received twenty guineas premium from the Society for Arts, &c. for communicating the above method.

Stand

Stand for Shoemaker's Work.

Mr. Thomas Parker has contrived a bench at which shoemakers can work in a standing posture; it consists of a perforated board, whose edge is surrounded with a cushion covered with leather, and supported by four legs: it thus somewhat resembles a bason stand. It is four feet high, and the perforation is about six inches in diameter; the shoe and last is laid across the above annular cushion, and is retained firmly by an endless strap, which passes round it, and descends to a treadle, on which the workman rests his foot. A little flat leather cushion, used in adjusting the last and strap, and a small triangular prism of wood, on which boots are closed, completes the apparatus.

Mr. Parker received fifteen guineas for this contrivance from the Society for Arts, &c.

New-discovered Principle of Manure.

Mr. Arthur Young, in the course of his experiments on manures, has discovered that hydrogen gas admitted to the roots of plants, increases their growth and vigour more than most other matters.

It is probable that carbonated hydrogen would have an equal or a greater effect than pure hydrogen; and indeed, as all air procured from iron is more or less carbonated, and Mr. Young used this kind; properly speaking, the experiment was made with it.

This fact not only throws great light on the theory of the action of solid manures, particularly of carbonic substances, but may be at once turned to account in hot-houses, constructed like those for admitting steam beneath the plants. Corbonatic hydrogen is procured by the distillation of coal in the manner practised for the gas lights, and might, in such a building, be forced beneath the plants in great abundance, at a small cost, by a similar apparatus.

Hawthorn propagated by Cuttings of the Root.

Mr. Taylor, of Morton, has discovered that hawthorn hedges may be formed, in a more expeditious manner than usual, by cutting the roots of this shrub into small pieces, and planting them with the top one-fourth of an inch above the ground; the upper end of each piece may be marked when cutting by giving it two cuts, and the lower end but one.

The spring is the best time to plant the sets; of those planted by Mr. Taylor, not five in one hundred were lost. For this discovery, Mr. Taylor received the silver medal from the Society for Arts.

Pruning Fruit-trees.

A method of pruning has been practised in the garden of the Margravine of Anspach, which has much improved the fruit produced; it consists in leaving the interval between the shoots on each branch as short as possible, cutting every branch off beyond its first shoot, and leaving a very short stem: by which means the sap will have the least possible distance to run to the fruit, and, consequently, the vigour of the tree be spent in producing fruit, instead of wood and leaves.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

LONDON.

AN interesting experiment has recently been made in the artillery. Lieut. Col. Crichton, with two six pounders, mounted on a new construction of his invention, together with the artillerymen attached to them was ordered to set out from Edinburgh for Woolwich, taking post horses at the ordinary stages. One of the axle-trees broke on the road, which occasioned a considerable stop, and some other delay occurred; yet the party reached Woolwich,

Woolwich, (a distance of 400 miles in 77 hours, the men arriving in perfect condition for service.) So great a journey was chosen, that sufficient observation might be made on the different effects from length of stages or quality of road. In consequence of the accident which had happened, a second experiment was directed. The party went from Woolwich to Southampton, and returned to Woolwich in 24 hours without fatigue, the distance travelled being 160 miles. The experiment has proved, that powder may be carried without danger from the friction which has hitherto been apprehended from any great velocity of movement. The object of these trials has been to ascertain, whether, in case of an enemy's landing, at any distant point, where few or no guns might be stationed, a powerful force of artillery could not be transported to the spot, before the invader should have made any progress. The result has been satisfactory, not only on this head, but promises the means of considerable savings; for, if artillery can be thus forwarded, by receiving a certain number of horses of the neighbourhood at given points, in case of invasion, a material diminution might probably be made in the number constantly kept at the great ordnance depots. The alteration of the carriages is but a very trifling expence.

Sir J. Duckworth has represented at Lloyd's, the misconduct of upwards of twenty of the Masters of Vessels, which sailed under his convoy: the frequency of similar complaints, demonstrates the necessity of legislative interference on the subject.

Dec. 10th. The annual assembly of the Royal Academy was holden, for the purpose of electing the Officers for the ensuing year, when Benjamin West, Esq. was chosen President, after having retired from the Academy, and declined the Presidentship, in Dec. 1805, from the occurrences mentioned in his letter, which, at that period, was given in all the public papers. Upon that circumstance Mr. Wyat was placed in the Chair.

The Rev. Henry Fitzroy (commonly called Lord H. Fitzroy) is appointed a Prebendary of Westminster in the room of the late Sir Richard Cope.

A circular letter has been issued from the Horse Guards, to the Commanding Officers of all the second battalions of the line, inforcing in the strongest terms the necessity of their utmost exertion in recruiting. For this purpose his majesty has ordered all officers who can be spared, to be immediately employed; and if, in six months an additional levy of at least 400 men is not attached to each battalion, a reduction of the battalions failing, will take place as a measure necessary to public economy.

Married. Dec. 1st. At St. Georges, Hanover-Square, Major Jameson, 53d foot, to Miss Loughman, of Lower Seymour-street.

Dec. 5th. James Collins, Esq. to Miss Charlotte King, both of Bedford square.

Dec. 8th. At Marylebone Church, W. Gibbs, Esq. of Cambridge, to Miss Sharman, of Occold, Suffolk.

Dec. 8th. At Lambeth Church, Robt. Morris, Esq. of Brunswick square, to Miss Leslie, of Buckingham-street.

Dec. 9th. At St. Martin in the Fields, Capt. Geo. Lewin, 38th foot, to Miss White, daughter of the late John W. Esq. Attorney General of Upper Canada.

Dec. 9th. At Marylebone church, Capt. Maxwell, of the First Regt. of Guards, eldest Son of Sir David Maxwell, Bt. to Miss Martin, of Englefield Green, near Egham.

Dec. 22d. At the Dowager Lady Jersey's, in Charles-street, Berkley square, the Hon. and Rev. ——— Bagot, to Lady Harriot Villers.

Died. Nov. 24th. Aged near eighty, the pious, the virtuous, the humane Bishop of St. Pol de Leon, whose life was one continued act of piety to God, and charity to man.

At his house in Devonshire-Place, after a few days illness, Admiral Sir Richard King, Bart. a most distinguished and gallant Officer, whose services have richly adorned our naval history. Sir Richard was twice returned to Parliament for Rochester, and is succeeded in his title by his only son Capt. King, of L'Achille, of 74 guns, which he commanded in the memorable battle of Trafalgar.

Aged 78, John Mallet, Esq. late director general of the Hospitals in America and the West Indies, under Lord Grey.

5th. Died at Hampstead, Aged 90, Mrs. Blackford.

8th. In Lincolns Inn Fields, Mrs. Hamilton, wife of Wm. H. Esq.

Dec. 10th, In Windmill-street, Fitzroy-square, Edw. Edwards, Esq. Associate and Teacher of Perspective to the Royal Academy, Author of a Treatise on that branch of Science.

Dec. 12th. Jos. Dennison, Esq. of St. Mary Axe. He is supposed to have left property to the amount of at least 1,000,000.—This Gentleman was the son of a small Clothier, at Woodhouse-Carr, near Leeds, and when about twenty years of age, he walked to London, to procure a situation in a counting-house. Though of saving habits, he always maintained, and deserved the reputation of a man of punctuality and probity; and it was perhaps principally by a strict adherence to this line of conduct, that a person who left his paternal home, with less than a guinea in his pocket, quitted the world possessed of a princely fortune.

General Account of all the Christenings and Burials, within the Bills of Mortality from Dec. 17, 1805, to Dec. 16, 1806.

Christened in the 97 Parishes, within the Walls, 1121. Buried 1152.

Christened in the 28 out Parishes in Middlesex and Surrey, 9734. Buried 7842.

Christened in the 17 Parishes without the Walls, 4763. Buried, 3678.

Christened in the 19 Parishes, in the City and Liberties of Westminster, 4762. Buried 5271.

Christened, Males, 10,452, Females, 9928, in all 20,380. Buried Males 9215, Females 8523, in all 17,938.

Whereof have died under two years of age, ...	5405
Between two and five, ...	2029
Five and Ten, ...	822
Ten and twenty, ...	635
Twenty and thirty, ...	1329
Thirty and Forty, ...	1782
Forty and fifty, ...	1793
Fifty and sixty, ...	1503
Sixty and seventy, ...	1265
Seventy and eighty, ...	859
Eighty and ninety, ...	414
Ninety and a hundred, ...	99
Hundred, ...	2
Hundred and four, ...	1

Increased in the Burials this year 363.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

Died. Aged 86, at Harlington, Mrs. Jennings, widow of the late Arthur Jennings, Esq.

BERKSHIRE.

At the late Coursing Meeting, at Isley, eight dogs were entered for the Cup, which after seven severe courses, was won by Lord Rivers's Rosemary.

Died. At Newbury, Mr. Buffin: a few minutes after eating a hearty supper, he leaned back in his chair and expired immediately.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

A boy employed at the Copper Mills, at Temple, near Marlow, fell into the pickling-tub, in which the metal is immersed when it comes out of the furnace, and received so much injury from the corrosive and poisonous quality of the fluid, that he expired in indescribable torment the next day.

Married. At Chalfont, St. Giles, the Rev. William Jones, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, to Miss Molloy, of Stone-Dean.

Birth. At Taplow House, the Hon. Mrs. Grenville, of a daughter.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

The subject for the Norrisian prize for the next year is "*The Fullness of the Time when Christ came into the World.*"

Cambridge,

Cambridge, 15th Dec. His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloster arrived at Trinity College, on a visit to the Rev. Dr. Mansell, the Master. Next day being the commemoration day at Trinity College, his Royal Highness dined in the College Hall, where nearly 300 persons, including many of the nobility, sat down to a most splendid dinner, accompanied by a very excellent band of music. The day following his Royal Highness held a Levee at Trinity College, which was attended by almost every member of the Senate resident in the University, and in the evening of the same day he set out on his return to town.

The Gold and Silver Medals offered by Dr. William Turton, for the best poetical effusions to the memory of Lord Nelson, have been adjudged to two compositions, the first the production of Mr. Raleigh Trevelyan, B. A. of St. John's. The second of Mr. Mainwaring, of Brumbrow Hall, Cheshire.

The Rev. William B. Barker, of Emmanuel College, is elected a Fellow of that Society, and John Warden, Esq. of the same College, is admitted a Doctor of Physic.

Married. At Cambridge, Charles George, Esq. late of St. John's College, to Miss Emma Butcher.

Died. At Newmarket, Mrs. Eaton, of Stuckworth Hall.

CHESHIRE.

The Tobacco Manufactory of Mr. William Nichols, of Chester, has been totally destroyed by a fire.

Birth. In London, the Lady of Sir Thomas Stanley, of Hooton, Bart. of a son and heir.

At Belmont, the Lady of Henry Clarke, Esq. a son.

CORNWALL.

On the night of the 22d Nov. an armed and disguised banditti destroyed Mr. Hawkes's mill-dam and weir, at Dunmeer, near Bodmin: they then proceeded to the corn mills at Boscane, the property of the Rev. Dr. Hammond, of Oxford, where they broke and destroyed the wheels and mill-stones, and broke down the mill-dam. Even the bridge over the river did not escape their fury, and they likewise destroyed many thriving young trees. This is the third time within three weeks that depredations of a similar description have been committed at Boscane.

The Rev. John Jope, is instituted to the Rectory of St. Ives.

Married. At Falmouth, the Rev. T. Griffin, to Miss Grant, daughter of the late Dr. Grant, of St. Austle.

Birth. At Irregena Castle, the Lady of Samuel Stephens, Esq. M. P. of a son and heir.

Died. At Launceston, aged 88. The Rev. Edmund Spettigue, Rector of North Tamerton. During sixty years he had never failed doing his clerical duty but once, when he was prevented by the overflowing of a river.

CUMBERLAND.

Married. At Whitehaven, Matthew Atkinson, Esq. of Temple Sowerby, to Miss Littledale, daughter of the late Isaac Littledale, Esq.

At Gretna-Green, Lieutenant Fisher, of the 2d West-York Militia, to Miss Maria Forster, daughter of John Forster, Esq. of Newton, near Carlisle, whose consent being afterwards obtained, they were re-married the following day at St. Mary's church, Carlisle.

Births. Mrs. Dixon, of Middleton Place, was delivered on the 27th October last, of a daughter, and on the 8th December of a son, both are now alive, and with the mother, are doing well.

At Blackburn, the Lady of F. Hindle, Esq. a daughter.

Died. At Rydal-Hall, Westmoreland, George Edward Stanley, Esq. of Ponsonby Hall, in this county.

At Oatlands, in the Isle of Man, James Oates, Esq.

At Cosgrove, Yorkshire, Lady Muncaster, of Muncaster-hall, in this county.

DERBYSHIRE.

Married. At Chesterfield, William Outram, Esq. to Miss Bower.

DEVONSHIRE.

The herring fishery on this coast promises to be very productive this season. Several of the boats from Clovelly, with only three men, have already shared 50l. each man.

Births. At Teignmouth, the Lady of Captain Fisher, of the North Devon Militia, of a son.

At Cawsand, the wife of John Rowe, jun. shipwright, of three girls; the father's apprenticeship expired on the following day.

At Mamhead, the Lady of the Hon. Robert Dundas, of a son.

Died. At Lisbon, John Lyon, Esq. late of Exeter.

DORSETSHIRE.

Married. At Sandhill Park, Capt. Rich, eldest son of Sir Charles Rich, of Shirley House, to Miss Lethbridge, youngest daughter of Sir John Lethbridge.

DURHAM.

The Rev. Thomas Egerton, Prebendary of Durham, who was one of those detained in France, at the breaking out of the war, is arrived at his house in College, after an absence of four years.

The Rev. George Stevenson, M. A. late Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, is presented to the Rectory of Kellow, in this county.

William Hoare, Esq. is unanimously elected Recorder of Durham, in the room of Sir Frederick Morton Eden, resigned.

It appears from the last annual Report, that 272 poor children were educated at the Sunday schools of Durham, under the care of eight teachers and their assistants.

Several persons have lately been fined by the Magistrates of Gateshead, for riding and drawing carriages on the foot-path, and suffering bull and mastiff dogs to go about unmuzzled, and swine to go at large.

Eighty-two children of the labouring poor on the Ravensworth estate, have lately been vaccinated at the desire of Sir Thomas and Lady Liddell; and the whole have passed through the disease without a single unfavourable symptom.

Married. At Bishops Auckland, Mr. John Tadman, of Newcastle, to Miss Margaret Richardson.

At Bishops, Wearmouth, Brigade Major Mills, to Miss Robinson, of Hindon-Lodge.

Died. At Lambton, William Fenwick, Esq. Under-sheriff of the county. He is succeeded by Richard Scruton, Esq.

At Kellow, the Rev. William Langstaff, Rector of that parish.

At Gateshead, the Rev. John Bailie.

At South Shields, Christopher Thompson, Esq. of Leam.

At Gainsford, aged 72, John Coade, Esq. He had been confined to his bed 14 years.

ESSEX.

Married. At Colchester, Captain J. Duddingston, 28th Foot, to Miss Purvis, of Beules.

Birth. At Walthamstow House, the Lady of Sir Richard Wigram, of a son, being her 15th, and her 20th child now living.

Died. At Chelmsford, aged 104, Mary Lazell.

At Plaistow, aged 76, John Bell, Esq.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Married. At Gloucester, John Little, Esq. of Painswick, to Miss Carruthers, of Pitchcomb House.

Birth. At Cheltenham, the Lady of Sir Edmund Carrington, a of daughter.

Died. At Cheltenham, the Rev. Richard Cope, of Bramshill House, prebendary of Westminster.

At Uley, near Dursley, Mr. Thomas Went, an eminent clothier.

In

In Thornbury work-house, of which she had been an inmate 35 years, Mary Brigs, 105.

HAMPSHIRE.

At the Annual Meeting of the Christ-church Agricultural Society, held at Winchester, 24th Nov. the prizes were adjudged as follows: For the best Turnips, to Mr. Elliot; for the second best, to Mr. Trim; for the best Heifer, to Mr. Daw; for the best Boar, to Mr. Elliot; for the best Sow, to Charles Jenkinson, Esq.; for the best wooled Ram, to William Mills, Esq. M. P.; for the best wooled Ewe, to Mr. Hunt; and for the best Weather, to Mr. Daw. Premiums were also given to the four best Ploughmen, and rewards to the same number of Ploughboys; to the best Thatcher; and to Labourers, for bringing up families without Parochial assistance. &c. The Rev. James Willis, was re-elected President, for the ensuing year, and the Rev. Thomas Wyndham, was elected Vice-President.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders of the County, Sir John Pollen in the Chair, it was unanimously resolved to petition Parliament against the Election of Mr. Thistlethwaite and Mr. Herbert.

A few days ago, a melancholy circumstance took place at Portsmouth. Some young men who were waiting for a passage to India, went out, as they say, to practise firing at a mark; soon after one of the party was brought back, having been shot through the body, and he is since dead. His companions say that the unfortunate youth was killed by one of the pistols going off accidentally, but the Magistrates not believing their story, have ordered them into custody.

Births. At North Waltham, the Lady of the Rev. Clement Cottrell, a son.

Married. At Eling, Mr. John Pursor, to Mrs. Sarah Ash. Their joint ages amounted to 131 years.

Died. At Houndean, aged 103, Mrs. Hammond.

At Southampton, Mrs. Elizabeth Organne, wife of James Organne, Esq. of the Island of Guernsey.—Mrs. Fitzhugh, widow of Valentine Fitzhugh, Esq. formerly Envoy at Constantinople.—Captain Woodgate, aged 26, of the 1st Royal Veteran Battalion. His premature death was occasioned by a wound he received in the landing of the British troops under the command of General Abercrombie, at the Bay of Aboukir.

At Portsea, James Norman, Esq. a Captain in the Royal Navy.

At Ashton, Sir Joseph Eylis, a Captain in the Royal Navy.

At Milton, Thomas White, Esq. an Alderman of Portsmouth.

At Coldrey, near Alton, the Rev. Joseph Warton, D. D. late head Master of Winchester College.

At Pucknell, aged 84, Mrs. Compeigne, widow of Mr. Compeigne, late of Winchester.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

Married. At Hereford, Mr. George Pritchard, of Woolhope, to Miss Powell, of Eaton.

Died. At Hereford, Mrs. Walwyn, widow of the late Richard Walwyn, Esq. of Langworth.

At Almsly, Rev. Henry Allen, D. D.

At Ledle Dewchurch, aged 32, Richard Garrold, Esq.

At Ross, aged 88, Mrs. Judith Coney.

At Bristol, Mr. Thomas Fisher, of Whitechurch, in this county.

The Rev. Thomas Lloyd, M. A. one of the Senior Fellows of St. John's College, Cambridge, is promoted to the Vicarage of Lewisden.

Married. At Dublin, John Hoskyns, Esq. youngest son of Sir Hungerford Hoskyns, of Harwood, to Miss Caroline Renton.

At Knibworth, John Adolphus Young, Esq. of London, to Miss Haggard, eldest daughter of William Haggard, Esq. of Knibworth Place.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

Married. At Little Paxton, the Rev. Thomas Richard Rooper, of Abbotts-Repton, to Miss Standley.

KENT.

27th of Nov. As a party of Artillery were crossing Kennington-Common near Ashford, one of the ammunition boxes at the back part of an howitzer car exploded, in consequence of the powder being heated by friction. A gunner who was sitting on the box was driven to a considerable distance, and so much injured, that he died next day. A few minutes after another box exploded, but luckily without damage, except to a horse which was drawing the next gun, which was struck by a splinter with such force, that a triangular piece was driven out of the skull betwixt the eyes, so as completely to expose the brain and cavities of the head.

An extraordinary discovery has been made by Mr. William Collins, farrier, in the sufferings of a horse, the property of Mr. G. Stevenson, of Maidstone, which died of the stone after having lingered a considerable time in excruciating agony. Mr. Collins, on opening the animal, extracted 17 stones, the largest weighed 26 ounces and a half—gross weight of the whole, seven pounds three ounces.

Married. At Marybone Church, Henry Hawley, Esq. eldest son of Sir Henry H. of Leybourn Grange, to Miss Shaw, eldest daughter of Sir John S. of Kenwood.

At Lewisham, the Rt. Hon. Col. S. H. Lumley, to Miss Tahourdin, of Sydenham.

At Waltham-Abbey, Joseph A. Gomm, Esq. to Miss Matthews, of Corsham, Hants.

Died. At Canterbury, Mr. Henry Hilton, late Mayor.—Aged 70, Mrs. Hillbrook, she has left 100*l.* to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, and 20*l.* to the poor of St. Dunstans in that city.

At Blackheath, aged 79, John Walker, Esq.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Ludgwater jun. both of Upchurch, being out together shooting, while the former was in the act of pulling the trigger after taking aim at a rabbit, Mr. L. unfortunately started across his piece and received the whole of the charge in his head, which occasioned his instant death.

At Sittingbourn, Thomas Tonge, Esq.

LANCASHIRE.

At the anniversary meeting of the Caledonian Society of Liverpool on St. Andrew's Day, the subscription to the charity fund of the society amounted to upwards of 100*l.*

Married. At Cartmell, Thomas Askew, Esq. of Fellgate, to Miss Barrow, of Alithwaite Lodge.

At Liverpool, George Frederick Harris, Esq. to Miss Ferguson,

Robert John Jones, Esq. of Jamaica, to Miss Eliz. Barton.

John Clayton, Esq. of Enfield, to Miss Buchanan.

At Manchester, William Warner, Esq. of Uttoxeter, to Miss Norris, of Salford.

Mr. Robert Cuttle, to Miss Lever, of Whitby.

Died. At Liverpool, aged 100, Bridget Marchant.—William, her husband, died in October last in his 107th year.

At Wigan, aged 94, Mrs. Wyan. She was mother, grandmother, and great grandmother to upwards of 200 children.

At Liverpool, Mr. Benedict Paul Wagner. He was the first foreign merchant that ever settled there.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

Died. At Nether Broughton, aged 85, Mr. Robert Gill. He was father to ten, father-in-law to seventeen, grandfather to eighty-five, and great grandfather to twenty-nine persons, all living.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

The Rev. Stephen Sloane, B. A. is presented to the rectory of Gedney.

As some labourers were digging clay in the brick yard of Mr. Pool, at Bottesford,

tesford, near Grantham, about nine feet from the surface, they discovered the head and horns of an animal, of the bull kind, of most extraordinary dimensions. The weight of the horns, with a piece of the frontal bone, is 31 pounds; the span from tip to tip is two feet one inch, and at the greatest bulge of the horns three feet two inches; each horn from the skull to the tip measures two feet eight inches, and is at its base one foot one inch and a half in circumference. One tooth weighs two ounces and a half. There is an imperfect cavity in the clay, in which the body of the animal is supposed to have been, and on each side was a large piece of an oak tree, as black as ebony. Some part of the horns, near the tip, is completely petrified.

Married. At Gretna Green, John Tasker, Ostler of the George Inn, Spilsby, to Rebecca Smith of the same place. They walked to the shrine of Vulcan, 240 miles, and returned in the same manner.

At St. Paul's Covent Garden, Major Denshire, of the South Lincoln Militia, to Miss Hester Coles.

At Clifton, the Rev. Richard Carrew, Rector of Broxholme in this County, to Miss Elton, of Bristol.

Died. At Lincoln, George Harrison, Esq. of Fisherton.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

Died. On the 6th Inst. at his seat at Tredegar, aged 85, the Rt. Hon. Sir Charles Morgan, Bart. many years Judge Advocate General, and Representative for the County of Brecon, in several successive Parliaments. He was a gentleman sincerely beloved by all who knew him, and equally respected.

NORFOLK.

The Rev. John James Hornby is presented to the Rectory of North Rips.

Birth. The Lady of Philip Hamond, Esq. of Darsingham, of a daughter.

Died. At Norwich, aged 100, Mrs. Margaret Galley.

Found dead in his bed, to which he had retired in good health the preceding evening, John Green, Esq. an Alderman of Norwich. He served the office of Sheriff, in 1789, and of Mayor, in 1791. His family and numerous friends will long regret the domestic and social virtues which adorned his character, of which they are thus unexpectedly deprived; while his fellow citizens will no less deplore the loss of an active and exemplary Magistrate in whom they placed a confidence equally honourable to themselves and its object.

Lately, Sarah Rickwood, aged 49 years. For the last six years of her existence this poor woman supported with admirable fortitude the complicated miseries of one of the most enormous cases of dropsy on record. In the course of about fifty months she was tapped thirty eight times, and discharged 350 gallons of a fluid, weighing 4666 troy pounds. The greatest quantity discharged at one operation measured 11 gallons and a half, weighing 153lbs. and a half.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

Died. At Mirables, in the Isle of Wight, George Arnold, Esq. of Ashby Lodge, in this County.

Burnt to death, in consequence of her clothes catching fire, Miss R. Lovell, daughter of Mr. L. of Great Billings.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Lord Collingwood has given 50*l.* to the Newcastle Infirmary, 10*l.* to the Dispensary, and 10*l.* to the Charity for the delivery of poor married women at their own houses.

3rd. Dec. the workshops of Mr. John Anderson, Cabinet-maker, in the Big Market, Newcastle, were totally destroyed by a fire which also did considerable damage to the neighbouring buildings.

At Morpeth Fair there was a short supply of cattle and sheep, which sold readily; prices much the same. Beef 5s. 6d. to 6s. 9d.: mutton 5s. 3d. to 7s. per stone, sinking offals.

Birth. At Warkworth, the Lady of Henry Erskine, Esq. of a Son.

Died. At Middleton, Ralph Paterson, Esq.

At

At Newcastle, suddenly, in the midst of her pupils, Mrs. Wilson, of Saville Place (aged 59)—Born to affluence, she was early visited by a severe vicissitude of fortune; under the pressure of which, her exemplary conduct engaged the high esteem and respect of many judicious friends. But the misfortunes of the individual proved of essential benefit to the Public; as they led her to devote her valuable life to that important profession, in which the soundness of her judgment, the extent of her information, and the dignified gentleness of her manner, particularly qualified her to excel. Her plan of education was not confined to the mere ornamental accomplishments; but extended itself to the regulation of the mind and heart on the principles of a rational piety, and with an enlarged view of the importance of the female character. Her great success is abundantly testified by the many excellent and amiable members of society who have been trained up under her direction; by the warm attachment which they have uniformly continued to shew, to the preceptress and friend of their youth; and by the deep regret which not only they, but the public at large, have expressed for her sudden removal from that scene of active usefulness, in which she continued till the moment of her death.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

Married. At Handsworth, C. Nath. Eyre, Esq. of Ranby Hall, to Miss Pyke.

Died. At Nottingham, Cornelius Lauder, Esq. a Deputy Lieutenant of the County, and formerly High Sheriff.

At Southwell, Michael Beecher, Esq.

OXFORDSHIRE.

William Elias Taunton Esq. has been unanimously elected Recorder of the City of Oxford, in the room of the Rt. Hon. Charles Abbott, resigned.

The Rev. Herbert Jones, B. D. Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, is presented to the Rectory of Southdeme, in this County.

The following gentlemen are appointed to succeed the public preachers who are to go out at Michaelmas next. The Rev. Dr. Birke, of Oriel College; Rev. Dr. Barrow, of Queen's; Rev. Messrs. Kett, of Trinity; Williams, of Christchurch; and Crowe, of New College.

Messrs. Paggen Hale and Paul Beilby Lawley, of Christchurch, Peter Frye Hony, of Exeter, and John Latham, of Brazen-Nose, are elected Fellows of All Soul's College.

Mr. Aubrey Charles Price is admitted Fellow of Exeter College.

Joseph Harper, Esq. Student in Civil Law, of Trinity, is admitted Bachelor of Law, Grand Compounder.

The Rev. Edward Booth, B. A. is elected Fellow, Mr. Fenwicke, and Mr. Nash, Exhibitioners, and Mr. Clarke, Scholar, of Lincoln College.

The six public examiners appointed, are

Rev. G. Smith, Fellow of Magdalen College.
—— J. Dean, Fellow of Brazen-Nose College.
—— W. Corne, Student of Christchurch.
—— R. Hughes, Fellow of Jesus College.
—— G. Shepherd, Fellow of University College.
—— R. Dixon, Fellow of Queen's College.

The Rev. Thomas Welles, B. D. of Worcester College, is admitted Doctor in Divinity.

Mr. Thomas Moore, B. A. is admitted Fellow of Balliol College, and Mr. William Vaux, B. A. of Christchurch, and Mr. Charles Barter, Scholar of Balliol College, are elected Probationer Fellows of that society.

Mr. David Hughes, B. A. and Mr. Edward Thomas, of Jesus College, are elected Scholars of that society.

Mr. ——— Norton, of University College, is elected Fellow of that society.

The Hon. and Rev. Philip Bagot, the Rev. Philip Thistlethwayte Strong, the Rev. Thomas Anthony Methuen, Mr. Townsend Selwyn, the Rev. Christopher D'Oyley Aplin, the Rev. J. Wilson, Mr. Nath. Humfrey, and Mr. E. Repton, are admitted Masters of Arts.

The

The subjects proposed for the Chancellor's prizes for the ensuing year are
For Latin verse, *Plata Flavius.*
For an English essay, *On Duelling.*

Married. At Woodford, Wm. Henry Ashurst, Esq. eldest son of Sir Wm. H. A. of Walverstock Park, in this County, to Miss Mosely, of Bolesworth Castle, Chester.

Died. At Oxford, Mrs. Buller, wife of Mr. Alderman B. 76.

Mrs. Blayney, wife of the Rev. Dr. B. Canon of Christchurch.

RUTLANDSHIRE.

Nov. 27. The Committee of the Leicester and Rutland Agricultural Society met this day at Oakham. They have offered premiums for the best estimate of the comparative advantages of Oxen and Horses employed in Agriculture; the best comparative experiments for ascertaining the effects of fresh and rotten Dung; the best and second best pen of sheer Hogs, and of Ewes; the best conducted experiment for ascertaining the relative properties of different breeds of Sheep; the best Ox, not above three years old; the best Ox that shall have been worked from three years old off, to six years old off, or more; the best experiment and report on the practical effects of Lime on the different sorts of Land; and the best conducted experiment, for ascertaining the relative advantages to be derived from soiling or grazing Cattle and Sheep. Lord Robert Manners, and the Rev. P. Story, were unanimously elected Members of the Society.

The Rev. Wm. Hardyman, Senior Fellow of Emanuel College, Cambridge, is presented to the Rectory of Great Luffenham.

SHROPSHIRE.

Considerable damage has been occasioned at Wellington, by a Thunder Storm. A man and a boy were killed by the lightning, and many windows were broken. At Charlton-hill, two teams were at work; one of four horses at plough, and another of five carting soil; in each team two horses were killed, and the persons attending them were struck down, and carried home speechless, but are since recovered.

Married. At Shrewsbury, Lewellin Lloyd, Esq. younger brother of Sir Edm. Pryce Lloyd, Bart. M. P. to Miss Faulkner, Daughter of Edw. F. Esq. of Fairfield.

At Great Ness, John Edwards, Esq. to Miss Martin, Daughter of the Rev. Geo. M. and grand-daughter of the late, and niece of the present Duke of Athol.

At Wem, F. Boult, Esq. of Liverpool, to Miss Swanwick, of Pynns Farm.

Died. At Shrewsbury, Jonas Blakeway, Esq. 66.

At Oswestry, Mrs. Mary Evans, 100.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

At the annual meeting of the Bath and West of England Agricultural Society, at Hetling House, on the 2d. Instant, the Bedfordean medal was awarded to John Billingsley, Esq. for an Essay on the cultivation of waste lands. Many other premiums and bounties were given for superior desert and industry in various departments of husbandry. Dr. Parry's flock of Merino Ryeland sheep, (not exhibited for any prize) was much admired, as was a bull of uncommon size and beauty, sent by Mr. White Parsons, and a large hog, by Mr. Brooks. The shew of live stock, was however inferior in number to some former years, which is partly to be attributed to its being a week earlier than usual.

Married. At Castle-cary, Thomas Fookes, Esq. of Sherborne, to Miss Woodforde.

At Whatley, the Rev. J. Townsend, of West Pinnard, to Miss Shore.

Died. At Bath, Mr. John Taylor, an eminent Landscape painter.

Aged 94, the Rev. Mr. Pembridge, Minister of the Roman Catholic Chapel.

Aged 57, Arthur Blake, Esq. brother of the late Sir Patrick Blake, of Longham, in Suffolk.

At Fyrland, near Taunton, Sir Wm. Yeo, Bart. 79.

At Frome, ——— Vaughan, M. D.

At Charter-House, Aged 99, Mrs. Rogers, Widow of the Rev. John R. and last surviving sister of Dr. Squire, formerly bishop of St. David's.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

An Inquest was lately held at Sedgely, on the body of a girl 12 years old, who, with a boy about the same age, were at work in a nailor's shop, and, in consequence of a quarrel, the boy, in his passion, stabbed the girl with a red-hot iron he had in his hand in the breast, in consequence of which she expired the next day. Verdict—*Wilful Murder.*

Married. At Stone, the Rev. Mr. Yonge, of Houghton, to Miss Fanny Amery of Stoke.

Died. At Litchfield, Mrs. Bryden, widow of the late Dr. B. of Edgeware Road, 86.

At Wolverhampton, Mrs. Edwards, wife of the Rev. Vincent E.

SUFFOLK.

The Rev. Frederick Barnwell, Jun. of Bury, St. Edmonds, has given 100*l.* to the Charity Schools, and the like sum, to the Sunday Schools, established in that Borough.

Married. At Sudbury, Rev. Richard Snape, of Bolton le moors, to Miss Lætitia Ann Frost, Daughter of Richard F. Esq. of Sudbury.

Died. Geo. Biddell, Farmer of Bradford, his death was occasioned by the prick of a thorn in his thumb, 58.

At Beccles, Le Grice Browne Bohun, Esq. 76.

SURREY.

Married. At Farnham, William Pain, Esq. to Miss Mainwaring, daughter of Wm. M. Esq.

Died. At Richmond, the Rev. Thomas Wakefield, brother of the late learned Gilbert W. An account of this gentleman will be given in our next number.

At Cobhams, Bartholomew Churchill, Esq.

SUSSEX.

The Papillion, lugger privateer of Cherbourg, six guns, and thirty men, was lately driven on shore, near Little Hampton, and totally wrecked, when twenty-five of the crew took to the boat and pulled towards the French coast, in a most tremendous sea. An English collier brig running before the wind, too generously hove-to, to save them. The Frenchmen seeing this, ran alongside, boarded and took possession of the vessel, and after putting her crew with all their private property into the boat, steered for their own coast. The remaining five Frenchmen are prisoners.

Married. At Seaford, Capt. Barnham, of the West Norfolk Militia, to Miss Eliza Williams, daughter of the Rev. John W.

At Balcomb, J. C. Strode, Esq. to Miss Chatfield, daughter of the Rev. Henry C.

Births. At Chichester, Lady Edward Somerset, of a son and heir.

At Newton St. Loe, the Lady of Jacob Wilkinson, Esq. of a daughter.

The Lady of Dr. Birch, Dean of Battel, of a son.

WARWICKSHIRE.

A large sum is subscribed for establishing a General Dispensary, and an Institution for delivering poor married Women, at Birmingham. It is announced that the first stone of the building will be laid in a few days by Henry Potts, Esq. Low Bailiff.

Died. At Walton, Sir John Mordant, Bt. He represented this County in Parliament, from 1793 to 1802, when age and infirmities constrained him to retire.

At his seat, at Arbury, after an illness of a few days, Sir Roger Newdigate, Bart. aged upwards of 88 years. Sir Roger was for many years one of the representatives in parliament for the university of Oxford, to which he had for a long period been a liberal benefactor: he was owner of one of the finest and most productive coal-works in the kingdom, near Bedworth; he was a great

a great benefactor to the poor, by whom his loss is universally lamented, and to whom they never applied for employment in vain.

At Foxcote, Francis Canning, Esq.

WESTMORELAND.

As a post-chaise belonging to the White Hart Inn, at Kendal, was returning home, the driver drove the horses into the river Kent, a little above Nether Bridge, to wash, when, the waters being considerably out, they were immediately carried down the stream; the horses and driver all perished. The following morning the body of the driver was found at Heslington Laths Mill.

WILTSHIRE.

The Rev. Mr. Hume, Canon Residentiary of Salisbury Cathedral, is appointed Treasurer to the said Church.

The Rev. Martin Whish, Prebendary of Salisbury, is presented to the Vicarage of Bodminster and Abbot's Leigh, with the Chapels of St. Mary, Redcliff, and St. Thomas, in Bristol.

Married. At Wotton Basset, Thomas Jacques, Esq. of Bristol, to Miss Davies.

Birth. At his house, near Salisbury, the Lady of Thomas Atkinson, Esq. of a daughter—her 25th child.

Died. At Bradford, Mr. John Sawbridge. He has left by his Will 400l. 3 per Cent. Stock, for a Charity School, at Bradford; 400l. to the poor of that Parish, and 100l. to the Salisbury Infirmary.—At Swindon, the Rev. J. W. Aubrey, Rector of Little Hinton.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

The Rev. Robert Clifton, B. A. is appointed minor Canon of Worcester Cathedral.

The Executors of the Will of the late Anna Maria Lady Sandys, have paid her Legacy of 100l. to the Governors of the Worcester Infirmary.

Died. At Worcester, the Rev. Robert Douglas, Rector of Salwarpe and Hampton-Lovell.

At Pedmore, near Stourbridge, William Croft, Esq.

Burnt to death, in consequence of her dress taking fire, Mrs. Grubb, of the Crown Inn, Hallow.

YORKSHIRE.

A Subscription has been set on foot, for establishing and supporting a General Dispensary at Halifax.

Thornville-Royal, with all its sporting appendages, has lately been transferred back to Colonel Thornton, by a decree of the Lord Chancellor, who has ordered the 10,000l. deposit to be paid back to the young and eager purchaser of this alluring domain.

The Rev John Forth, domestic Chaplain to the Earl of Derby, is presented to the Rectory of West-Heslerton.

The Rev. Henry Weston, M. A. is presented to the Vicarage of Welton.

Married. At Bradford, George Carroll, Esq. of Dublin, to Miss Hoddersden, of Horton.

At Elland, John Ward, Esq. of Lansdown Place, London, to Miss Lambert, of Elland Hall.

At Hull, George Nelson, Esq. of Great Limber, Lincolnshire, to Miss Sherlock, of Portland Place.

At Darrington, the Rev. William Faber, to Miss Mary-Ann Barker.

Births. At Allerthorpe, the Lady of Charles Constable Stanley, Esq. of a son.

At Leeds, the Lady of Major Buller, of the Scots Greys, of a son.

At Spofforth, near Wetherby, Mrs. Potter, of three girls.

Died. At Burton Agnes, the Rev. Thomas Dade.

At Doncaster, aged 61, Mr. Launcelot Harrison, for thirty-nine years an itinerant preacher of the Methodist connexion.

At Wooley Park, near Wakefield, in consequence of a fall from a window, Mrs. Fawkes, widow of the late Walter Fawkes, Esq. of Farnley Hall.

At Skipton, Mr. John Hutchinson, an eminent breeder of running horses. Among others he had reared Oberon, Benningborough, Hambletonian, Overton, Traveller, and Tickle-Toby.

At Moorgate, near Rotherham, Samuel Tooker, Esq. Recorder of Doncaster.

At Sowerby, near Thirsk, William Wright, Esq. late Lieutenant-Colonel of the Coldstream Guards, 82.

At Hull, Rowland Walton, Esq. of Kighley, 66.—Mrs. Bolland, widow of the late William Bolland, Esq. 74.

At Leeds, Mr. William Powell, formerly an eminent merchant.

At Cams, near Hambledon, Robert Travers, Esq.

WALES.

On the 7th inst. the Bridge lately erected over the river Romney, near Cardiff, fell with a most tremendous crash; luckily the men who were employed in wheeling gravel over it had quitted work a few minutes before. The old bridge is still standing and quite secure.

A Congé d'Elire has passed the Great Seal, for electing the Right Rev. William Cleaver, Bishop of Bangor, to the See of St. David's, vacant by the death of the Right Rev. Dr. Samuel Horsley, and another for electing the Rev. Dr. John Randolph, Bishop of Oxford, to the See of Bangor.

Married. At Ruabon, Lieutenant-Colonel Shipley, eldest son of the Dean of St. Asaphs, to Miss C. W. Wynne.

At ——, Charles Gustavus Frisk, Esq. to Miss Davies, daughter of the late Robert Davies, Esq. of Ruthin.

At Montgomery, Mr. John Whitely, of Liverpool, to Miss Jones, daughter of Charles Thomas Jones, Esq.

At Landaff Cathedral, Thomas Newton, Esq. of Du Valle, Devon, to Miss Marianne Homfrey, eldest daughter of John Homfrey, Esq. of Landaff House.

Died. At Kennarth, (Caernarvon) aged 100, Samuel Griffiths, a fisherman. He was father of 25 children, all of whom he brought up without parochial assistance.

At Brecon, the Rev. Samuel Rogers, Prebendary and Canon of St. David's.

At Bristol, Thomas Lloyd Thomas, Esq. of Coade-belen, Caernarvon.

At the Vicarage of Bernew, (Montgomery) the Rev. Edward Jones, 13 years Vicar of that parish.

At his father's house, in Builth, (Brecknock) Richard Price, Esq. of Jesus College, Oxford.

At Capel Cerrig, (Caernarvon) aged 104, Gayner Thomas. She had fourteen children, 30 grand children, and 19 great grand children.

In Caermarthenshire, Edw. Wm. Richard Mansell, Esq. It is remarkable that his old and faithful domestic, William Hemberton, who had been attached to his person from his childhood, and who had been often heard to say that he could not survive his master, never spoke after the news of his death reached him, and in a few hours followed him to eternity.

SCOTLAND.

On Thursday 4th Dec. came on at Holyrood House, the Election of the Sixteen Scots Peers. The following Noblemen were present:

Duke Buccleugh	Earl Glasgow
—— Argyle	—— Lauderdale
Earl Errol	—— Hume
—— Elgin	—— Breadalbane
—— Morton	—— Stair
—— Aboyne	Lord Northesk
—— Haddington	—— Somerville
—— Leven	—— Arbuthnot
—— Dalhousie	—— Napier
—— Kelly	—— Reay

Earl

Earl Balcarras	Lord Kinnaird
—— Selkirk	—— Sempill
—— Crawford	—— Ellibank
—— Aberdeen	—— Rollo
—— Kinnoul	—— Forbes
—— Cathcart	—— Blantyre
—— Elphinstone	—— Belhaven.

POLL OF THE ELECTION OF THE SIXTEEN PEERS OF SCOTLAND, DEC. 4, 1806.

THE CANDIDATES WERE THE FOLLOWING:

Errol	44	Somerville	47
Elgin	46	Blantyre	51
Leven	45	Reay	45
Selkirk	46	Kinnaird	41
Northesk	48	Strathmore	31
Balcarras	53	Kelly	35
Aberdeen	43	Haddington	34
Stair	44	Dalhousie	37
Glasgow	50	Aboyne	38
Forbes	53	Saltoun	6
Cathcart	54	Sempill	22
Elphinstone	63	Napier	36

The sixteen first were elected.

Married. At Dalkeith House, the Right Hon. W. Earl of Aneram, to Lady Harriet Montague, youngest daughter of the Duke of Buccleugh.

At Holyrood House, J. F. Stanley, Esq. of New York, to Mrs. Lindley, daughter of the late Hon. John Murray, dean of Killaloe.

At Edinburgh, Archer M'Nab, Esq. the younger, of Easter Terry, to Miss Margaret Robertson.—John Gibson, Esq. W. S. to Miss Agnes Mitchell Mason.—W. Grant, Esq. of Sea Bank, to Miss Mary M'Kenzie.

At Glasgow, W. Cox, Esq. of Greenock, to Miss Margaret Kerr.—Mr. Robert Croom, to Miss Margaret Shepherd, both of Glasgow.—Mr. John Hutchinson, merchant, to Miss Marion Miller.

In Argyleshire, John Elliot Porch, Esq. late of the First Guards, to Miss Helen Elizabeth Lamont, youngest daughter of John Lamont, Esq.

At Hamilton, William Douglas, Esq. W. S. to Miss Anna Brown, daughter of John Brown, Esq.

Births. At Ochtertyre, Lady Mary Murray, of a daughter.

At Kilravock Castle, the Lady of Hugh Rose, Esq. of a daughter.

At Dunnichen, Mrs. Dempster, of Skibo, of a daughter.

Died. At Galloway House, in the 71st. year of his age, John, Earl of Galloway, Baron Garlies, in Scotland, and Baron Stewart, of Garlies, in Great Britain, Lord Lieutenant of the county of Wigtown, and of the Stewardry of Kirkcudbright, a Lord of the King's Bed-chamber, and a Knight of the Most Ancient Order of the Thistle.

At Edinburgh, after a long illness, Sir Wm. Forbes, of Pitsligo, Bart. aged 68. He was one of the earliest members of the celebrated Literary Club, which boasted among its other illustrious associates, the names of Johnson, Reynolds, Garrick, and Burke.

Aged 94, Catherine Dewar, widow of John Ferguson, in the parish of Fortingal. Her funeral was attended by three sons and two daughters. Of her 49 grandchildren, 22 were present, and of 10 great grandchildren, 6.—Mrs. Murray, wife of Charles M. Esq. late His Majesty's Consul General at Madeira.—Mr. John Jackson, many years Manager of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Theatres.—Andrew Dalzell, Esq. A. M. F. R. S. Edin. Professor of Greek in the University of Edin.—Henry Rattray, Esq. late of the Island of Jamaica.—James Balfour, Esq. W. S.

Aged 92, Wm. Law, of Elvingston, Esq. late Sheriff-depute of Haddingtonshire.—Gen. John Fletcher Campbell, of Saltoun.

At

At Glasgow, Wm. Bogle, Esq. Lieut.-Col. Commandant of the 1st. Reg. of Volunteers.—Mr. John Austin, late Manufacturer.—Miss Pelson Mackintosh, daughter of George M. Esq.

At Aberdeen, George Auldgo, Esq. late Provost.

At Braco-Castle, Mrs. Margaret Græme, widow of the late Francis Masterton, Esq. of Gogar.

At Tarvett Mill, near Cupar Fife, the Rev. Andrew Ireland, minister of Monzie, aged 61.

At Cairnmuir, William Lawson, Esq.

At Arbroath, James Johnston, Esq. late provost.

At Leith, Robert Ramsay, Esq. sen.

At Haughhead, near Hamilton, Mrs. Campbell, widow of the late Robert Campbell, Esq. of Downie.

At Alloa, aged 80, Mr. W. Nicoll, merchant.

At Berwick, Major Alexander M'Lean.

At St. Cyrus, aged 91, Joseph Alexander, a shepherd. He spent the whole of his long life, one year excepted, in the parish where he was born and died. He had eighteen children, forty-four grand-children, and fourteen great grand-children.

At Bayfield, Rosshire, Mrs. Rose.

At Cromarty, aged 81, Miss M'Kenzie, daughter of the late Murdo M'Kenzie, of Ardross.

At Calder House, the Hon. Alex. Sandelands.

At Lauder, James Edmonston, Esq. many years provost of that burgh.

IRELAND.

His Majesty has commanded the archbishishops and bishops of Ireland to make a minute return of the present state of the Irish Church in their respective provinces and dioceses.

Dr. Lindsay, the Bishop of Kildare, has lately received 22,000l. as a fine for the renewal of a lease of lands near Dublin, which includes the national botanic garden.

A new lighthouse has lately been erected on Clare Island, on the coast of Mayo.

A private of the 20th Foot was lately knocked down and houghed on the bridge of Strabane. The magistrates and principal inhabitants have subscribed 250l. as a reward for the discovery of the perpetrators.

Lord Ponsonby has presented 300l. to the public charities of the city of Cork.

Married. At Bourdeaux, Bernard Phelan, Esq. of Cashel, a prisoner of war, in France, to Miss Maria Guestier.

At Dublin, William Brady, Esq. of Williamshed, Galway, to Miss Power, daughter of Edmund Power, Esq. of Water-park, Clare.

Nuttall Greene, Esq. of Kelmachin, Waterford, to Miss Parsons.

Edward Brennan, Esq. of Grange, Meath, to Miss Mary Hare, daughter of Matthew H. Esq. of Tipperary.

Capt. Molesworth, 47th Foot, to Miss Smith, of Rutland-street.

Paul de Cruize, Esq. from India, to Miss Egan, of Cumberland-street.

William Smith, Esq. of Smithfield, Tipperary, to Miss Poe, of Limerick.

William Moulton, Esq. of Moulton-Abbey, Galway, to Miss Smith at Cork.

At Cork, Patrick Mc Crane, M. D. to Miss Markey, of Carrick, Louth.

At Lisburn, Thomas Walker, Esq. of Dublin, to Miss Fulton, second daughter of James F. Esq.

At Camolin Church, Robert Birch, Esq. of Dublin, to Miss Margaret Mc Cormick, of New-Ross.

Births. At Armagh, the Lady of Sir George Leigh, of a son and heir.

At Clifton, Mrs. Chearnly, of Salterbridge, Waterford, of a son and heir.

At Loftus-hall, Lady Emily Henry, of a son.

At Dunmore, Queen's county, the Lady of the Hon. George Knox, of a son.

At Camlin, Roscommon, the Lady of John Irwin, Esq. of two sons.

At Limerick, the Lady of Alderman Ralph Westropp, of a son.

At

At Brookledge, Waterford, the Lady of Robert O'Brien, Esq. of a son.

At Dublin, Lady Frankfort, of a son. The Lady of Robert Martin, Esq. of a daughter.

At King's-Fort, Meath, the Lady of Charles Cole Hamilton, Esq. of a son and heir.

The Threshers still continue their depredations in the north western districts. The Derry mail coach was lately attacked by a number of armed men, near Drogheda, but owing to its being doubly guarded, they were disappointed in their object; but the mails have been stopped and plundered so frequently that the merchants and bankers of Dublin have found it necessary to prepare a memorial to the Lord Lieutenant, setting forth the necessity of a more adequate protection. The acquisition of horses and arms now appears to be one of their principal objects, and many houses have been attacked with this view. In the near neighbourhood of Limerick, a servant of colonel Lefroy's was lately compelled at so early an hour as eight in the evening, to give them two of his master's horses. The same night, a party of about sixty men, well mounted and armed, preceded by a piper on horseback, and another man sounding a long horn, visited a public house in the liberties of that town, compelled the landlord to supply them with liquor, and afterwards robbed him of a horse. They take every precaution to disguise themselves when in arms, and also to murder every person whom they suspect not to be stedfast in their cause.—A poor farmer in the County of Mayo, being unwilling to reside any longer amidst so much tumult and danger, advertised his house and stock to be sold, having determined to take a small farm in the County of Dublin. Some of the Threshers hearing this, suspected that he perhaps was acquainted with some of their transactions, and was about to inform against them. To prevent this, a near relation of his, connected with the gang in the neighbourhood, under the mask of friendship, brought him to a public house; and, while they were there drinking in a room with several other men, a man with his head, body, and all his limbs covered with ropes of hay regularly twisted round them, entered, and, with a hatchet which he held uplifted in his hands, absolutely split the suspected man's head in two pieces. The relation of the deceased has absconded. Several of the other men present have been apprehended; but there is no evidence to prove that they were in league with the murderer, who is, of course, as yet unknown. At the Commission held lately at Sligo, only one was convicted, all the others who were indicted having escaped from want of evidence. In some instances they still affect to act as redressers of wrongs. They lately made a nocturnal visit to a poor man in the County of Longford, who rented an orchard, and enquired what he paid for it; when he had informed them, they said it was a fair rent, and wished him success with his bargain; but they declared, that if they had found he had been overrated, they would have compelled his landlord to refund an hundred fold. A priest in the same County had charged a poor woman double fees for a christening, on account of there being twins. The Threshers soon paid him a visit, and compelled him to pay a sum of money, with which a cow was purchased and sent home to the cabin of the poor woman. A nightly guard is placed at the passages of the river Inny to prevent the insurgents extending their depredations farther into Leinster, and it is said to be the intention of government to call out the whole yeomanry force of Connaught and the adjacent Counties.

Deaths. At Dublin, Captain Johnston, of the Rotunda Yeomanry.—The Rev. Henry Duncan, late Vicar of Dunboyne.—Richard Pearson, Esq. of Clonburrough.—The Rev. John Lever, formerly Rector of Carlingford, a brother of the late Sir Ashton Lever.—Mrs. White, of Aghavoe, Queen's County.

At Cork, Edward Creed, sen. Esq.—Mrs. Shine, widow of the late Dennis Shine, Esq.

At Ross, aged 97, Mrs. Cliffe, great grand aunt to the Marquis of Ely.

At Palace, near Kinsale, aged 84, James Kingston, Esq.

At Belfast, aged 78, Mrs. Jane Savage.—William Dunlop, Esq.

At Ballymallis, Kerry, James Eager, Esq.

At Nellogues, near Killend, aged 102, John M'Lellan.

At Kilcooley, aged 106, John Shortal: he has left a widow in her 102d year.

FOREIGN

FOREIGN OCCURRENCES.

From a list lately published of the Deaths in the Heptarchy of Pinfasck, in Russia, it appears that five were 110 years old, one 113, four 120, one 130, and one 150.

The Empress of Russia was lately delivered of a princess, at St. Petersburgh.

Letters from Auch mention the death of Pierre Monnede, at the age of 116 years and four months. He worked as a day labourer until a little before his death. He recollected the war of the Spanish Succession in the reign of Louis XIV. He died through *hunger*, occasioned by his not being able to swallow, through weakness, the food which was given to him. He had never been sick in his life.

Letters have been received at the India House, from the East Indies, dated the 28th of July.—They were brought by an American vessel, by way of America. It appears, that a very disagreeable affair occurred at Vellore, shortly before the letters were dispatched. A battalion of Sepoys, in consequence, it is supposed, of a quarrel about some women, fell upon the 16th Regiment of Native Infantry, and put every man to death, including two officers, Major Charles Armstrong, and another. Immediately after this bloody outrage, a regiment of Cavalry was sent for to Arcot, which hastened to attack the Sepoys, to whom no quarter was given, nor did the dragoons think their vengeance complete until every one of the guilty battalion were sacrificed. We have the satisfaction to state, that this unpleasant affair did not originate in any spirit of disaffection to the Government.

Died. On the 5th of May last, at Dacca, in Bengal, after a short illness, Christopher Roberts, Esq. third Judge of the Provincial Court there, very deservedly and sincerely lamented.

October 10th, at Gibraltar, after a short illness, Richard Lewis, Esq. Apothecary to the forces.

At Warren, in America, of a mortification in his bowels, occasioned by swallowing a sharp chicken bone, General Knox.

Lately, at Aux Cayes, in Hispaniola, Duncan M'Intosh, Esq.—He was assassinated by the Negroes, because, it is supposed, some of them were deeply indebted to him. They cancelled the debt with the blood of the creditor!!! Mr. M'Intosh was a native of Scotland; to the ardent friendship which characterises his countrymen, he added unbounded humanity and uncommon beneficence. During the massacres which followed the evacuation of Aux Cayes by the French, the virtues of this excellent man were put to a severe trial. Then, when death and pillage were the penalty of shelter or protection, he saved hundreds of persons pointed out for immediate destruction. His known goodness drew the wretched people in crowds; his house sheltered them, his table fed them, his wardrobe clothed them, and his gold not only arrested the fury of the monsters who sought their lives, but also procured them means of escaping to security and safety. His fortune depended solely on his success in commercial enterprize; and his fortune and his life he readily risked in behalf of the unfortunate!

The Supplement to the Madrid Gazette of October 14, 1806, gives an account of the return of Dr. Francis Xavier Balmis, Surgeon extraordinary to the King of Spain, from a voyage round the world, taken for the sole purpose of conveying the benefits of vaccination to all the transmarine possessions of the crown of Spain, and to other countries in their vicinity. This truly liberal and benevolent expedition set sail from Corunna in November, 1803, carrying out 22 children who had never had the small-pox, as the means of preserving in due efficacy the vaccine matter by successively transmitting it from one to another during the voyage. It stopt at the Canaries, at Porto Rico, and at the Caracas. In that province it was divided into two branches, one destined for South America, under a sub-director; the other, under Balmis, for the Havanna and Yucatan. The

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latter, by a subdivision, spread vaccination through the province of New Spain and uniting again at Veracruz, proceeded with 26 fresh children across the Pacific Ocean to the Philippine Islands, where it propagated the salutary disease through the islands subject to the crown of Spain, and likewise among the natives of the Visayan Archipelago. It thence reached Macao and Canton, where it was successful in bringing the matter in an active state, in which the English practitioners had hitherto failed. Balmis proceeded for Europe in a Portuguese vessel, and touched at St. Helena, at which place he prevailed upon the English settlers to adopt vaccination, which they had before neglected, though communicated to them by Dr. Jenner.

The branch of the expedition sent to South America, though it underwent the accident of shipwreck, was successful in saving the children, and the matter in an active state, and spread vaccination widely in the viceroyalty of New Granada, whence, in March, 1805, it was proceeding to that of Peru.

An indigenous matter has been discovered in the cows of different districts of South America, which may serve for the future propagation of the vaccine antidote.

MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

THE late successes of Bonaparte have enabled him to extend that systematic warfare, which he has long carried on against our commerce. Hamburgh, Bremen, Embden, &c. have been successively the objects of visitation for the spoil of British manufactures, or the produce of our colonies. This mighty conqueror, however, finds the objects of trade less easy of capture than towns, or provinces. The returns of British property, have in every place been infinitely less than French rapacity had anticipated; a circumstance owing in a great measure to the violence of Bonaparte, last spring, in forcing the king of Prussia to exclude our commerce from his ports. The intercourse had been renewed so lately as to afford little opportunity or inducement to consign goods in that direction for account of the British merchant. What had been sent was almost entirely for account, and at risk of the inhabitants, so that the loss by this act of pillage, instead of falling upon us, devolves on the neutral trader, whose obvious interest it is to conceal by every possible means the extent of his property, rendered liable to confiscation by this new species of rapine.

These prohibitions are ostensibly extended to Holland, but not enforced in that country, where a desire to render king Louis popular, outweighs every other consideration. From a passage in the official papers, relative to the late negotiation, it would appear that Bonaparte is aware that the Dutch Custom-house officers by no means act up to the letter of their prohibitory orders. Whether he actually believes this, or only urges it as an ingenious argument for a peace, favourable to himself, we venture to predict that his efforts against our trade, whether dictated in his moments of headstrong passion, or conceived with deliberate subtilty, will fail to produce the results which he anticipates. There is a nicety in the complicated operations of commerce which Bonaparte either has not patience to investigate, or is unable, from having passed his life in military pursuits, to comprehend. He considers commerce, as governed by the same means of coercion, as those by which he controuls the movements of an army. He attempts to raise it in one quarter by forced encouragement, and to put it down in another, by sudden violence. He issues an edict from his Imperial camp to suspend the intercourse of nations, as if his edict were capable of supplying the wants of mankind; as if an act, conceived and issued on a momentary impulse, could at once eradicate those habits and overthrow that fabric of reciprocal connexion and dependence, which it had been the work

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An indigenous matter has been discovered in the cows of different districts of South America, which may serve for the future propagation of the vaccine antidote.

MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

THE late successes of Bonaparte have enabled him to extend that systematic warfare, which he has long carried on against our commerce. Hamburgh, Bremen, Embden, &c. have been successively the objects of visitation for the spoil of British manufactures, or the produce of our colonies. This mighty conqueror, however, finds the objects of trade less easy of capture than towns, or provinces. The returns of British property, have in every place been infinitely less than French rapacity had anticipated; a circumstance owing in a great measure to the violence of Bonaparte, last spring, in forcing the king of Prussia to exclude our commerce from his ports. The intercourse had been renewed so lately as to afford little opportunity or inducement to consign goods in that direction for account of the British merchant. What had been sent was almost entirely for account, and at risk of the inhabitants, so that the loss by this act of pillage, instead of falling upon us, devolves on the neutral trader, whose obvious interest it is to conceal by every possible means the extent of his property, rendered liable to confiscation by this new species of rapine.

These prohibitions are ostensibly extended to Holland, but not enforced in that country, where a desire to render king Louis popular, outweighs every other consideration. From a passage in the official papers, relative to the late negotiation, it would appear that Bonaparte is aware that the Dutch Custom-house officers by no means act up to the letter of their prohibitory orders. Whether he actually believes this, or only urges it as an ingenious argument for a peace, favourable to himself, we venture to predict that his efforts against our trade, whether dictated in his moments of headstrong passion, or conceived with deliberate subtilty, will fail to produce the results which he anticipates. There is a nicety in the complicated operations of commerce which Bonaparte either has not patience to investigate, or is unable, from having passed his life in military pursuits, to comprehend. He considers commerce, as governed by the same means of coercion, as those by which he controuls the movements of an army. He attempts to raise it in one quarter by forced encouragement, and to put it down in another, by sudden violence. He issues an edict from his Imperial camp to suspend the intercourse of nations, as if his edict were capable of supplying the wants of mankind; as if an act, conceived and issued on a momentary impulse, could at once eradicate those habits and overthrow that fabric of reciprocal connexion and dependence, which it had been the work

of ages to form. He forbids his subjects, under the severest penalties, to trade with England. From what other country in the present state of colonial possession, and maritime power, can they be supplied? He prohibits the importation of our manufactures, and even of our raw produce. Has this mighty emperor established manufactures which supersede ours, or can he communicate with colonies in the East and West Indies? The fact is, that in spite of all his prohibitions, the trade with Holland and with Germany, will still be carried on, and chiefly by direct intercourse. But if direct intercourse be prevented, what is the consequence? His subjects must receive our manufactures and our produce by indirect channels, and pay in the increased price, the charges of the circuitous route. So that the punishment planned for an enemy, falls with redoubled pressure upon himself, for it operates to the impoverishment of his own resources.

The expedition under General Crawfurd, is considered as destined to add to our conquests in Spanish America. It is generally believed, to be intended against Caracas, with a view to accomplish what the scanty force, or indecision of Miranda, has been unable to perform. Some persons are disposed to give it a more remote object—Peru, an idea not altogether improbable, when we reflect on the riches of that region, its communication with Buenos Ayres, and, above all, on the salubrity of its climate.

Whoever is aware of the waste of valuable lives yearly incurred in our West India colonies, or of the unavoidable drain of capital they occasion, will not desire any addition to their present extent. The conquest of Caracas, rich as is that province, would answer no purpose, really beneficial to Britain, unless enabling us to make peace with the retention of the more healthy colony of Buenos Ayres. Buenos Ayres, although not equal as yet to Caracas in richness of produce, possesses the constituents of a far more valuable colony. The salubrity of its climate; the convenience of its situation, midway to India; its extent, offering a boundless field to the labours of agriculture and trade—all these are considerations, not of temporary profit, but of lasting advantage, and point it out as a primary object of retention at a peace.

This is the season for the dispatch of our outward convoys to the West Indies. The West and Southwest winds which so generally prevail in these latitudes, have in this, as in former seasons, already too long detained our first fleet. The ships that wait a change are in considerable numbers, both at the Downs, and Portsmouth.—The delay in the discharge of their homeward cargoes at the West India dock, has contributed to this loss of time. In this establishment, magnificent as it is, we already perceive the evils of an exclusive privilege. It affords indeed to the West India merchant, certain facilities in the payment of duties, and security against the pilferage, formerly practised in private warehouses. But these advantages are purchased by a variety of smaller sacrifices, the unavoidable attendants of monopoly, of which the delay in unloading is the most serious.

One of the principal mercantile occurrences of last month, was a general meeting of persons connected with the West Indies, to petition Government to encourage the substitution of Sugar for Grain, in the distillation of home-made spirits. The Sugar planter has not for many years, derived any reasonable profit from his business, but the proceeds of late, have fallen so far below what it is possible for him to afford it at, that the relief of this branch of trade, should become the immediate object of legislative interference. An inquiry into West India affairs, has been for a considerable time before the Privy Council, and a speedy attention to them, is no longer a matter of choice, but of necessity.

PRICE OF STOCKS.

Price of Bank-Stock - - - - - -	209
3 per Cent. Reduced - - - - - -	58¼
Ditto Consols for the Opening - - -	60⅝
Exchequer Bills 2 Discount.	

Ditto

The Average Prices of Navigable Canal and Dock Shares for DECEMBER, 1806
At the Office of Mr. Scott, 25, New-Bridge-Street, London.

The Trent and Mersey, or Grand Trunk Canal; 840l. to 880l. per Share, dividing 40l. per Share, per Annum.

The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal; 610l. per Share, dividing 36l per Share, nett, per Annum.

Grand Junction; 87l. per Share, including a Dividend of 1l. 10s.

Ashton and Oldham; 100l.

Worcester and Birmingham; 39l. per Share, including all New Calls paid.

Lancaster; 18l. 10s.

Scotch Mines Company; 204l. to 206l. per Cent. dividing 11l. per Cent. nett, per Annum.

West India Dock Stock; 150l. per Cent. dividing 10l. per Cent. nett, per Annum.

East India Dock; 124l. bearing Interest at present, of 5l. per Cent.

London Dock; 103l. dividing 5l. per Cent.

Globe Insurance; 102l. dividing 6l. per Cent.

Imperial Assurance; 12l. per Cent. Premium.

West Middlesex Water-Works; 4l. 10s. per Share, Premium.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR DECEMBER.

THE Wheat seed has been generally committed to the ground under very favourable circumstances throughout England, and the young wheats have a very healthy and promising appearance, nor has any damage yet been complained of from the depredations of vermin: the breadth sown is also most extensive, probably greater than that of any former season, particularly with relation to the northern part of the island, where also much land is in reserve for spring wheat. The cattle-crops likewise, turnips English and Swedish, cabbages, rye, tares, &c. for winter and spring supply, have never before been in use to so great a degree, and this culture will, most probably, continue to extend. With respect to the winter fallows, the improved practice of autumnal tillage, and surface draining, is happily gaining ground, as are rural improvements in general, at a gradual and sober pace.

The continued rains which have fallen of late, have impeded the little out-door business which can be done at this season, and confined the farmer's attention to his home, stable, and barns, where threshing has proceeded to a great extent, from the new, somewhat general, use of that noble implement, the threshing machine. No positive decision is yet made as to the probable quantity of the last crop of wheat, but it is on all hands agreed to be below the quantity of the previous year, and the quality middling. Potatoes were a good crop, hops middling; apples and orchard fruit, generally plentiful; the quantity of acorns short, as generally happens in blighting seasons.

All kinds of live stock plentiful and good in the country, and at reduced prices, with the exception of good store pigs. Good horses hold their price. In the London markets, beef 4s to 5s. per stone, to sink the offal. Mutton 4s. 6d. to 5s. Veal 5s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. Pork, ditto. Bacon 5s. to 6s. 6d. Wool has been a declining article throughout the present year. Sheep skins have sunk from 8s. to 5s.; and fat is very low. Wheat has suffered various fluctuations of price lately, the finest samples at one time, approaching very nearly 5l. per quarter: in fact, it seems a matter of extreme difficulty to form any judgment of the probable state of the spring-markets.

FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.

THE continued wetness of the season, accompanied with warm south-easterly winds, has been but too favorable to vegetation, increasing to an unusual height the young wheat crops, causing them to have, on cold moist soils, a weak and sickly appearance. If not speedily checked by some dry and severe frosts, they must suffer. The winter green crops of turnips and coleseed have flourished amazingly. But from excessive moisture, feeding sheep do not thrive well, the ground being damp, and their coats constantly wet.

The Fen counties, from the complete state of drainage in which they now are, notwithstanding the quantity of rain which has fallen, have not been drowned, and the out-lying stock at hay do tolerably well.

The late autumnal fairs having been abundantly supplied with store beasts, the straw-yards in every district are fully stocked.

The grain in general now thrashing out, barley and pulse crops excepted, yields well to the flail; and we are glad to hear, that the introduction of that excellent machine, a thrashing mill, worked by horses, is become pretty general in most corn countries, and a preference is now given to those mills which are moveable on wheels from one barn to another, doing much work in a clean and effectual manner.

Owing to extreme wet, the winter operations of ploughing and carrying out manure, have been in most places suspended.

Prices of Provisions this week at Chatteris, only seventy-one Miles from London, viz.

Excellent ox-beef, and wether-mutton, 7d. per lb.—Fine young pork 8d.—Fresh butter 10d.

The three great Lincolnshire fens, East, West, and Wildmore, (for which an act recently passed) the whole containing 40,000 acres, are nearly drained and inclosed. The lands sown last spring, produced amazing rich crops of hemp, mustard, and coleseed; and the lots already sold by auction to pay expences of inclosure, &c. averaged 51l. per acre.

PRICE OF GRAIN.

	ENGLAND AND WALES.				SCOTLAND.	
	s.	*d.*			*s.*	*d.*
Wheat	77	6			66	3
Rye	48	8			37	7
Barley	41	1			33	6
Oats	27	11			24	5
Beans	46	2			39	7
Pease	50	6			39	11
Oatmeal	42	11			21	4
Big	—	—			29	6